

NEWSLETTER

RUDOLF STEINER TRUST OTAGO

TERM1 # 4
23 FEBRUARY 2009
471-2163

office@dunedin.steiner.school.nz
www.dunedin.steiner.school.nz

UPCOMING EVENTS	MEETINGS
	Thursday 12 March BOT 7.15pm

FROM THE OFFICE

Gravel moving volunteers

If anyone has a little time to spare, please would you help shift the pile of gravel in the top field. The gravel needs to be spread around the outside of the yurts – just wherever most needs it. There is a wheelbarrow by the pile and a spade. Thanks!

Craft teacher

The school is looking for someone to help to teach craft for two hours a week. If you are interested then send a letter in to the office outlining your skills and experience.

Class trips and excursions

We have been reviewing our procedures around class trips and excursions (“Education Outside the Classroom”). A copy of the redrafted procedure is attached with a sample permission slip. Please email or send in your comments to Clare at the office by 28 February.

Passports or birth certificates needed for new school entrants and six year olds

If you have not returned these to the office yet for children just enrolled in Class one or six year olds in kindy then please get these in by Thursday 26 February.

Blocking of neighbour’s access road

The upper gravel extension of Manapouri Street, above the playing field, is the access road for our neighbour and at times he has been unable to get his truck through because cars have been parked on the road. Please ensure that all cars parked up there are on the grass verge only and don’t project onto the road itself.

Thank you

Thank you Sonya, for your valuable contribution to the school over the last year, in particular for keeping the website up to date and designing school brochures and flyers for the school fair.

Proprietors News

The proprietors met last week to discuss building plans. Priorities are installing the heating and power systems and applying fire retardant. It was agreed to continue with the solar power option for the lighting. Installing a toilet block will follow later on. We also discussed longer term plans for years to come such as offering a third kindergarten in town and further classroom or hall space.

The proprietors would like to thank Taikura School Trust in Hastings for their kind donation of \$10,000 which was initially loaned to us when we moved to Maia.

PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Class Five

Sizzle at the Book Sale

Despite some angst-inducing delays and a lower-than-anticipated turnout at the library book sale... but thanks to the enthusiasm and help of the parents and children who came out on Saturday, the Class 5 fundraiser barbeque was, hrrrrmm... moderately successful!!

A nice, relaxed atmosphere gave the children a great chance to chop through onions, turn the snarlers and practise change calculation on-the-fly. A huge thank you goes out to those parents who were there to help set up, aid the children when needed and pack up at the end of a long day. An apology must go to anyone who missed us at the start due to the wrangles that waylaid me - not least the legion of pipe bands that caused the cordoning-off of three quarters of Moray Place!!

Sales figures, however, compel us to do it all again - any suggestions/ideas from the community for coming-events or prime locations would be much appreciated; I hope we might manage it again within the next few weeks.

Horse Day at Springbank Farm

The planned day-excursion to Springbank Farm to spend time with Shirley Sheat and her horses has had to be postponed due to the masses of rain over the weekend. Shirley is concerned that the creek dividing her farm could be prone to flooding, potentially stranding us on the property!

A date will be set for a fortnight from now when conditions improve. The planned day trip to the farm, five minutes north of Palmerston, will hopefully lead to an overnight stay later in the year and is a great opportunity to work with and gain confidence around the animals.

Swimming

Due to the well-below desirable water temperature of Ravensbourne pool, combined with the sudden and unexpected departure of tutors, the C1-3 swimming programme has been dropped for term one. Subsequent weeks will see classes 1/2/3 engage in games with either Jocelyn or myself, depending on whether Class 5 goes boating (another very weather-dependent activity). Swimming may recommence in Term 4 possibly at Dunedin North Intermediate. We will keep you informed.

Notes from Class 5

We are now entering our fourth week of school and coming to the end of our journey with Rama. The class has been fully immersed in this colourful tale; we have been writing our own play scripts and recounts; experimenting with the fine art of shadow-puppetry as we make and test our own puppets; and we have been completing highly intricate and detailed borders in the Indian style: a wonderful warm-up to get us writing in the new year.

We have also enjoyed many mental arithmetic activities as we warm to our work each morning in this first term - the challenge of 'table tennis' (thank you class 3!!) and calculating the day's 'magic number' being particular favourites. The unwrapping of our brand new javelins last Tuesday was met by awe and no shortage of smiles. Initial attempts were very impressive and bode well for the year as we begin to grapple with the original five disciplines of the Greek Olympics ahead of studies of Ancient Greece in the latter part of the year. We eagerly await news of the Olympic Games for New Zealand Steiner schools.

Main lesson beginning next week will be another instalment of Geometry, where we will look closer at the quadrangle, perspective and light and shadow. This will be followed by the epic tale of Gilgamesh which will constitute the basis of a social studies block of life in Ancient Mesopotamia.

Many thanks
Lee Noyes

KINDERGARTEN AND NURSERY NEWS

Kia Ora Koutou Katoa

Some more lovely things have happened this past week.

My brother, from Alaska, visited the Nursery on Thursday and while he worked on a small cupboard for us to use as a new First Aid cabinet the children, after observing, were keen to make a contribution so one at a time helped him with this real and important work! It has been wonderful to hear both the Kindergarten and Nursery children singing sweetly to themselves spontaneously as they work or play.

The Nursery children in the Rata Room are beginning to engage less in parallel play than previously and more in co-operative play. This exciting new step brings new language learning through practice in negotiating and learning acceptable ways of communicating with one another for optimum co-operation. Children at this stage find that knowing how to ask nicely has the best results – at home and school we need to model these polite ways of speaking to give them the language they need.

Deep sympathy from us all goes to Brenda Hawke in the loss of her father. This week while Mrs Hawke is away Whaea Violet will be taking her place in the school and Miss Lea-Ann will be working in the Kowhai Kindergarten

Room with Matua Nick. Liqin will be helping Miss Rennie in the Rata Nursery Room. Therefore this week staffing will be as follows:

Kowhai Kindergarten Room:

	Monday 23 Feb	Tues 24 Feb	Wed 26 Feb	Thurs 27 Feb	Fri 28 Feb
am	Miss Lea - Ann	Miss Lea - Ann	Miss Lea - Ann	Miss Lea - Ann	Miss Lea - Ann
	Matua Nick	Matua Nick	Matua Nick	Matua Nick	Miss Rennie
pm	Miss Lea - Ann	Miss Lea - Ann	Miss Lea - Ann	Miss Lea - Ann	
	Miss Rennie	Miss Rennie	Miss Rennie	Matua Nick	

Rata Nursery Room: Mon 23 Feb – Thurs 27 Feb 9-1pm: Miss Rennie and Liqin

Anam’s last day with us will unfortunately be on Thursday as she will be shifting to Auckland. We will miss her and her family and wish them all the best in their new adventure.

Waterproof over-trousers are helpful for a child who loves to play with water. Also children can still engage in play outdoors if they have over-trousers when the outside environment is wet.

Please help us by labelling all your child’s clothes and belongings.

Lunches. Thank you for your efforts in sending healthy lunches.

To anyone having difficulty with this – a reminder to send no chocolate or sweets - see Parent Handbook and the section (A Menu Guide for Kindergarten Lunch Boxes) in the blue Kindergarten / Nursery sign in sheets folder at the door for more lunchbox ideas.

Our new suggestions box is ready by the door and we look forward to receiving your ideas for playground redevelopment in it.

For parents of children younger than 3 years old: If you are considering enrolling your child in the Nursery when he / she is 3 years old and ready for it – to start off coming to the nursery group, led very ably by Cecil, is an excellent way of transitioning between your care at home and care at the Nursery. You can attend playgroup with your child, meet up with other parents and learn more about the Steiner philosophy. Your child can meet up with other children and become more familiar with the new environment.

We thank you for the opportunity of working with you and your lovely children – a very special experience.

Rennie Bremner, On behalf of the Kindergarten / Nursery team: Miss Rennie, Whaea Violet, Miss Lea- Ann, Matua Nick and Liqin.

Note from Muzaffar, Sonya, Anam and Sana

As some of you are already aware, our family will be relocating to Auckland (because of our jobs) next week. Anam's last day at the Kindy will be Thursday 26 February. Being part of the Steiner community in Dunedin has been a wonderful experience and we would like to thank all of you for your support during our time here. We are happy that Anam has been given a place at the kindergarten in Michael Park Steiner School in Auckland and we look forward to getting to know the Steiner community there. We hope to keep in touch and if any of you are in Auckland, do let us know.

PLAYGROUP

We celebrated Terry's 3rd birthday at playgroup last week- happy birthday Terry! Our session runs from 9-11 on Friday mornings. Please bring a gold coin donation and a piece of fruit. Any questions call Cecil 472-8683

CRAFT GROUP

Last week we formed a special committee for the purposes of creating a felt mat to carpet the yurt. Thank you to Liam, Izumi, Chris and Marie. This is a very exciting project! Be ready at home to be part of the creation; we will need a lot of hands and feet!

Tuesday 3 March	9am to 1pm Ravensbourne Hall	Flax Weave a Large Basket with Marie Please remember to bring these items as they will not be provided: 20 leaves of flax (quite hard), 10 clothes pegs with springs, cutter, scissors, shredder , \$5 donation. Flax leaves can be cut a week before and left in a bucket of water.
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"Truth is a free creation of the human spirit, that never would exist at all if we did not generate it ourselves. The task of understanding is not to replicate in conceptual form something that already exists, but rather to create a wholly new realm, that together with the world given to our senses constitutes the fullness of reality". –Rudolf Steiner

From Colin Rawle

Community Notices

Community notices in our newsletter will 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

The first co-op order for this year will be with Ceres organics. If you would like to be involved please email <tracy@sculpture.co.nz> and I will email you a catalogue/order form. Please have orders in by March 2nd. For more information or if you would be keen to help with the co-op orders, please speak to Tracy or Paula.

Pilates Class

Change of time to suit Kindy Mums! Port Chalmers town Hall, Thursday 11 – 12
\$40 for five weeks, Phone Lucy 472 8830

Children's Choir

The UOCE Children's Choir is starting again on **THURSDAY, 26 February, 2009** .The choir will run until November and the children will have opportunities to perform in a variety of settings such as elderly people's residential homes, end of year concert and as community events arise.
COST - \$20 per child for Term 1 and \$25 for Terms 2, 3, and 4, or \$95 for the year. The first rehearsal is a trial for you and your child to see if s/he wishes to join. Please ring me if you would like more information.
Carole Randall, Music Dept.
University of Otago College of Education
Phone: 479 4243 e-mail: carole.randall@otago.ac.nz

Salsa Merengue Cha-Cha-Cha Dance Classes
Alone, or with a partner, \$25 per month
First Lesson: 3rd March 2009 Port Chalmers Town Hall
Every Tuesday: 7pm – 8pm
Salsa Party: Every Tuesday: 8.30 p.m
Carey's bay hotel, 15minute lesson – Free
Ph: 482 1094 cell: 027 6786 100