

UPCOMING EVENTS		MEETINGS	
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> – Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	Easter Break including Otago Anniversary	KMC	TBA
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> April	Last day Term 2	Proprietors Meeting	Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> March at 7:00pm at School
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> May	First Day Term 3	Board of Trustees Meeting	<u>THIS</u> Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> March at 7:15pm

### Easter Festival

Please note the new date of **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March at 1:00pm for the *Play for Easter***, followed by a shared lunch for both School and Kindergarten families. The date has been changed as two of the children will be away for a funeral on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March – this will be a music-based activity day.

### FROM THE OFFICE

#### Welcome Leonie Rousselot!

It gives us great pleasure to announce the appointment of our new administrator, Leonie. Leonie is originally from Switzerland and lives in Waitati. She has worked at Otago University in the past and brings with her a great deal of administrative experience. Leonie will be in the office doing some training this week and will start on Monday of next week. Please introduce yourself to Leonie when you have a moment.

#### Working Bee Postponed

There were plans for a working bee before Easter. This has been postponed until after the Easter break. Please see Clare if you have any questions.

#### Activity and Materials Fee 2008 – applies to School families only!

Thank you to those parents who already paid their \$50 activity fee for the first semester. If you haven't paid your activity fee as yet, please do so as soon as possible.

### SCHOOL NEWS

#### For Class 1-3

Thank you to all children and their parents for the happy, smooth beginning to 2008.

This is a little view into what we are doing at school this term. Alex is teaching all day Friday, as well as Monday, Tuesday and Thursday afternoons – French, painting, gardening, swimming and handwork. Brenda is teaching Monday to Thursday from 9am – 1pm and all day Wednesday – Main Lesson, English, Maths, Music, Maori, Drawing, and Extra Lesson. This is working well for both teachers and we are able to support each other in many ways.

#### Class 1-3 Skills and the Curriculum for 2008

We are focusing on building the children's knowledge and use of phonics this term. Every day we read sentences from the board and have a reading challenge each. Each week we play phonics games identifying the initial or final sound of a word. On Mondays, the children will bring home a sheet of words to "read" to you each evening. Sound out the words with your child. By the end of the week they will be able to "read" them. Each Thursday they will read the words to me. Once these phonic skills are solid, we will move onto more complex vowel sounds. The support you give at home in this constant repetition and practice greatly helps your child in the acquisition of literacy skills.

The story of *Aisling's Quest* is used daily to introduce consonant sounds to Class 1 and to practice using the sounds of the consonants to read in class 2. Each day we write – usually 2 sentences. We are learning the use of capital letters and full stops. The children are working neatly, developing a consistent letter size and awareness of spacing. They are developing their own delightful script styles.

In mathematics we are practising counting patterns, with a focus on counting by 1, 5, 10 for class 1 and odds, evens and 3 and 11 for class 2/3, in preparation for our first maths main lesson. The lily pads give us endless possibilities for dramatic maths encounters!

Two of the essential skills for this age are the development of a good memory and coordination/integration of the body. The former is addressed daily through story retells, revision of content and verse recitation (our

*St Michael* play at present). Development of coordination, spatial awareness, bodily awareness and integration of the body are achieved through movement, dance, Extra Lesson exercises, skipping, swimming and games.

### **Languages**

Alex takes the children for a weekly French lesson on Fridays. We will introduce songs and verses during morning circle throughout the year and hope to perform a French Play again this year. This past week saw us begin our Maori lessons. We were very fortunate to have Lou Ratapu introduce the sounds of the Maori language through a song and teach us new Waiata. Maori lessons are each Thursday at 11.35. Keep an eye out for our Spanish play in term 2!

### **The Arts**

The children practise melodies on their pentatonic recorders daily. We have just mastered our first round on the recorder. We sing daily, usually with great enthusiasm, a variety of folk songs for the class 1-3 curriculum.

At present we are engaged in preparing our Easter play – with singing, acting and dance. Each week we paint with water colours, learn to draw different forms for our Main Lesson work and draw many beautiful pictures as part of our Main Lesson.

With the help of Roslyn, we have begun Extra Lesson coordination sessions. They are very popular with the children. We are experiencing the movement forms of the human being's early life, which help integrate parts of the body and free early childhood reflexes. Many thanks to the Craft group for making our lily pads and beanbags so quickly. Thanks also to Joan Rawle for her inspiring gardening sessions with the children on Mondays!

We plan to have a parent evening after the Easter break.  
Alex and Brenda

### **Missing Bike Helmet**

Lost last Tuesday or Wednesday. Blue, grey and black with self adjusting fitting. If found please return to Ola (482-2344).

### **School Projects**

Have you taken the time to look at the 'Projects' wall beautifully created by Tanette, in the office corridor? This wall display is working very well and several projects have been completed to date. Thanks especially to the Craft Group for your involvement in many of them.

This is a special call to all you DADs, GRANDADs and UNCLEs – many of the remaining jobs require a substantial amount of 'oomph' more appropriate for the male of the species. These include:

A small concrete wall

Making wooden cubby holes for shoes

Cleaning out the basement and re-packing it with the things we frequently use are accessible.

If you are able to help out, please speak to a School teacher.

Many thanks, The College of Teachers

## KINDERGARTEN NEWS

We have planted wheat in small containers as part of our Easter preparation. The children are enjoying the story of Mother Holle. It is good to see so many of you are aware of the importance of limiting your child's exposure to the media. We encourage the children to play imaginatively in the kindergarten. Also through play, children can work through any difficulties they are experiencing. When children are exposed to the media it is difficult for them to enter their play in a deep and meaningful way.

### **Thank yous**

*Thank you to Karen and Marco Pessione for making the wonderful box for the sandpit shovels and rakes. Marie, thank you to you too for the drawings. They have been greatly admired.*

**Marjorie Theyer Visit 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> May**

Marjorie Theyer, our Federation Kindergarten advisor will be visiting for the above days in May. Marjorie will be speaking to individual parents on the Monday afternoon and may do a presentation on the Tuesday afternoon. We will issue an appointment schedule closer to her visit.

### Things for the Kindergarten

Please collect your brown onion skins for Easter Egg dying and bring into the Kindergarten in the weeks leading up to Easter. We will need old pantyhose for the dying process as well.

If you have fabric scraps for the Kindergarten, please bring them in for the sewing basket.

*Thank you from Roslyn*

### Kindergarten Parent Evening - Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March at 7:30pm

We ask that you please attend tomorrow's meeting at to discuss the Kindergarten fee structure and session times.

*Thank you from the Kindergarten Management Committee*

### KMC Bulb Fundraiser

A reminder to please complete your order and return it to the office by **Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March with your payment.** Please make cheques payable to **Dunedin Rudolf Steiner Kindergarten.**

Funds raised will be put towards items that the Kindergarten requires both indoors and out.

Many thanks for your support!

## CRAFT GROUP NEWS

Dear Ladies

Thank you for the work you put in to the aprons for the Kindergarten. We managed to sew 25 of them in total.

The last meeting was not easy to be a part of if you have young children, but for the next craft group meeting (crochet) please bring a mat and we will try to make it more appropriate for your little one (it might help to have a basket of toys and mums on floor level).

We still have some space for the rainbow dying workshop; please reserve your place at the office.

<b>Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March EXTRA MEETING TOMMORROW</b>	9:15am – 12:45pm	<b>Capes</b> for the School play at Catherine's house. Please join us to help the children's costumes look great. Bring your sewing machines along. Ring Catherine for details on 473-8302.
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	10am to 3pm	<b>Rainbow Dyeing Day</b> Cost is \$15 per person. Please leave your name at the office as places are limited. We will be dying cotton muslin rainbows, silk and cotton cloths. Learn about dying different fabrics and techniques. Please bring 3 items of your own to dye, i.e. t-shirts, children's clothing and fabric (1 metre limit) all must be natural fabrics only. <b>Please bring lunch to share</b> , a hat and sunscreen. Tea and coffee will be provided. <b>Cancelled if wet!</b> Questions? Ring Chris Cohen on 473-6088.
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	9am to 1pm	<b>Crochet Ball</b> for Kindy and School.
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	9am to 1pm	<b>Finish Crochet Ball</b>
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> April	9am to 1pm	<b>Flax Weaving with Junko.</b>

### 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](mailto:office@dunedin.steiner.school.nz)

Marie is always looking for glass jars with lid, large or small, please let her know by ringing 471-2181.

### Bio Dynamic Field Day

**Sunday April 27<sup>th</sup> from 10:30am to 3:00pm** with a shared lunch.

Stir and spread 500, build a compost heap, cow pat pit, garden prep. Talk as we work with Colin Rawle and Warrick Thompson. Entry by donation please.

### Community Choir

*Starts Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March at 6:00pm. Please bring music or a song to share. See you there!*