

NEWSLETTER

RUDOLF STEINER TRUST OTAGO

TERM1 # 7

16 MARCH 2009

471-2163

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www.dunedin.steiner.school.nz

UPCOMING EVENTS		MEETINGS	
Monday 23 March	Otago Anniversary Day School & Kindy Closed	Thursday 2 April 7.15pm	BOT
Wednesday 25 March	Values Workshop	Wednesday 6 May 9.15am At school	KMC

"A soul educated by reverence will convert its dark cravings and aversions into a feeling for the beautiful and a feeling for the good.

A soul that has cleansed its obscure instincts and will impulses through devotion will gradually build up from them what we call moral ideals. Reverence is something we plant in the soul as a seed; and the seed will bear fruit". Rudolf Steiner

FROM THE OFFICE

Commuter Train trip to school this Wednesday!!!!!!

Everyone who has said they will go to school by train on Wednesday morning MUST ring Tairei Gorge Railways 477-4449 and book their tickets; we can pay on the train. They need these bookings by **tonight** (Monday) or they may not allow us to get off at Maia. The train leaves Waitati at 7.45am and will stop at Purakanui, Sawyers Bay, St Leonards and, hopefully, Maia.

Linda

Measles

Children in our community may have come into contact with Measles. Please see the notice board for a fact sheet on measles.

Strategic Plan Review – Values workshop on Wednesday 25 March 7.15pm – Lower Classroom

It is time for us to review our Strategic Plan and Charter. The Strategic Plan is divided into three parts – our mission statement, our values and our vision. These then help us to build our Strategic priorities for the next three years. We invite all parents, staff and others involved in the community to a meeting which will particularly focus on the values that the school should uphold and which will wind up with your input on a vision for the school. The meeting will be facilitated by Shelley Wrigley.

I attach a copy of our 2008 Strategic Plan and Charter.

Clare

Please close the gates!

Many thanks to Merrall and his team for the wonderful kindergarten gates. Please would every parent and child remember to close gates as they pass through kindergarten areas – including the back playground. This helps us to keep the place safe for our children.

Proprietors

The Proprietors met to finalise plans for installing the woodburning stoves, lighting and fire retardant in the yurts. Chris Cohen is doing invaluable work researching our options. It seems that we may be able to use three stoves on a temporary loan arrangement. Many thanks to the families involved. Work is progressing so that we can be ready for the cold. Help will be needed from six strong people to move the stoves – at a date to be determined once the ground is dry enough for a truck to get onto the land.

Fundraising

We need everyone on board with our fundraising projects raising money for the many items on the teachers' wish list. These include a water pump for the kindergarten, unicycles for the school, new chairs for the kindy, xylophones, sports equipment...

Spring Bulbs

Please support our autumn bulb-fundraiser by collecting orders (and the according amount of money) from friends, family or work mates.

This program offered by Blooming Bulbs comes with a few regulations:

- Please return completed order forms, money and unused catalogues
- Only one order per form please
- Each order needs to be legible & checked to ensure the total is correct

The fundraiser will finish on the 31st of March, please have all completed order forms, money and unused catalogues returned to the school office by then.

No supply of:

- 521 Fritillaria camschatcensis
- Garden pop-up bags code#947
- Garlic spray code#992

If you wish not to participate please return the unused catalogue to the school office for further use.

Cheers Katja

Fruit orders

If you haven't had time to get your order in for this week there are still the next two weeks to place an order for organic apples, pears and honey. This is a great fundraiser for us; if every family sells 3 or 4 bags of apples we can make \$1000 very easily.

Raffle

Over the summer, a traveller and former pupil of Kimberton Waldorf School in the U.S.A, heard about our school and donated us his barely used bicycle for fundraising purposes. It is a 19" Marin Road Bike in near new condition. The fundraising group have decided to raffle it and we could raise \$1000, with your help. Tickets to sell will be coming home to each family soon. If anyone feels able to sell more than ten, please collect extras from the office or ask raffle organiser Emmeline.

PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Class 3/4

Well, we survived the gale of last week: howling winds, rippling canvas, bells leaping off the lattice walls! In fact I was amazed at the children's ability to stay focused on their learning tasks throughout it all; and we had fun creating "Windy Day" drawings. Have a look at them on the yurt wall.

This week we begin the Creation of the World Main Lesson with a focus on English and Art. We will paint the 7 days of creation and write the text using our newly-acquired cursive writing skills. Math will move to practice lesson time as we revise measurement skills, focus on our 3 and 7 times tables and practise column addition and subtraction. The children's homework is beautifully done and their enthusiasm for reading sees them spending their spare time sharing books.

Mrs Rawle, class 3/4 children and I have been spreading the gravel around the Yurts and down the paths where it is needed to keep the clay mud out of the classrooms and allow for drainage. It is heavy work and we would appreciate some help from the community in doing this.

KINDERGARTEN AND NURSERY NEWS

The children are learning a little song which has created magic in the Kindergarten. On Wednesday when they went out to play the children discovered some mushrooms on the grass. One of these was enormous! Fairies and gnomes of course live under mushrooms and a fairy even sprinkled fairy dust on Lilith that day. A pixie even put a piece of wood in someone's gumboot! I have been asked by a number of the children to write out the words of the song I have been singing for them so here it is:

Grow, grow, grow little mushroom, grow, grow
Somebody wants you so
I will call again tomorrow morn you'll see
And if you've grown bigger you will just suit me
So grow, grow, grow little mushroom grow

Keep a watch out for those mushrooms! You never know where you will find them!

We have been using the elderberry dye that we made recently to paint over our wax crayon drawings and have discovered some amazing colour changes over time with the dye as it dries.

In the next few weeks the Autumn season will be with us and we will begin preparations for the Harvest Festival at the end of term.

It is exciting to see how much more interactive the children's play has become in the Rata Room since the beginning of the year. New situations arise for the children and they meet a new set of challenges as they interact more.

Request:

Please save your raw onion skins for us to use for dyeing.

Also more small jars and very small jars would be helpful for water colour painting in the Rata Room.

Thank you, Rennie Bremner

Kindergarten opening on Friday afternoons from Term 2

From the start of Term 2 we will be opening the kindergarten on Friday afternoons. If you are interested then please complete a change of hours form at the office.

New Kindergarten Staff

Term 2 will see the arrival of a new kindergarten teacher, Dianne Darker. Diane comes with a wealth of experience from the Early Childhood sector and is looking forward to a change from her previous roles. The plan is for Dianne to assist in the Rata room as she learns the ways of a Steiner kindergarten. Her arrival means that we meet our license requirements of 50% of the staff required to be on duty holding an ECE qualification.

Kindergarten Management Committee (KMC)

We welcomed Norman (Malin's dad) as a new parent rep on the Kindergarten Management Committee. The other two parent reps are Kirsten McAuley and Pamala Walrond. The Playgroup Coordinator, Cecil, is also part of the team. Please remember that if you have any matters that you would like discussed at the Management Committee then either speak to a parent rep or to Clare or Rennie.

Both College and the Kindergarten Management Committee discussed the ideas for a kindergarten playground redesign. Thank you to all who submitted their ideas. Joan Rawle will be taking the first steps to change things a little by moving the boat towards the building with her gardening class. Norman will be doing some work lopping the macracarpa and pine trees a little to let in some more winter sun. Volunteers will be needed to help to clear and chip the smaller branches while the larger ones will be used for firewood and garden work.

(Next meeting 1st Wednesday of the month 9.15am at school)

PLAYGROUP

Friday 3rd April from 9-11 will be our last playgroup session for the term. We will be having our own autumn celebration especially for the little ones. All are welcome to come help put the flower children to bed! Any questions to Cecil 472 8683. Please bring fruit to share and a gold coin donation.

CRAFT GROUP

Dear Community, First of all, Marie, a big thank you for having created the Craft Group and shared your beautiful visions and ideas so far! I am joining the group as a newcomer and taking on some projects and so is Liqin. We are excited to take part, and keen to keep this learning opportunity alive. We know that there is a rich source of skills and ideas in the community, and look forward to sharing a fruitful time with you all.

Next workshop will be "Wet felting: playing with wool and stones". Simple wet felting using stones, to make felted paper weights, little trinket boxes, flowers, a little purse or bag, or ornaments. Beginners welcome. You will be able to make at least 3-4 objects. No cost to join the workshop, if you leave your works to the Craft Group. If you want to take your work home, please pay half of the sale price, which we will decide at the workshop once it is done.

Let's have fun!

Izumi

Tuesday 31 March	9am to 1pm Ravensbourne Town Hall	Wet Felting with Wool & Stones with Izumi Please bring: small smooth stones, (egg size or smaller, palm size to make a purse), sharp scissors, rubber gloves, two kitchen bowls and a towel
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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

Dunedin Fringe Festival Event at the Fortune Theatre Song Media present:
The Woman Outside

'This project began with a question - 'what are the dreams and confessions of women forced - or who have placed themselves - on the outside?'

We examined both historical and contemporary figures and asked - 'what are their stories, their predicaments? Developed over two years in an intensive collaboration between Sydney composer Nicholas Frost and Christchurch vocal artist Lisa Tui Bainbridge, following their vision to record a thematically unified set of original songs, taking the song cycle as their inspiration.

For the Dunedin Fringe Festival, Song Media combine with an exciting combination of performers, including - vocal and performance artist Sophie Ewert and physical theatre specialists Jola and Nele Siezen, for the work's debut performance at the Fortune Theatre studio.

Dates / Times: Thursday 26 March 7pm, Friday 27 March 7pm, Saturday 28 March 7pm, Sunday 29 March 2pm

Organic Co-op

Next week we will be placing a small re-order with Ceres for some kindy food that was out of stock. We will also be adding orders for Weleda items that people want. Please email me for the Weleda order form (<tracy@sculpture.co.nz>) if you would like to place an order. If you can't easily access Excel spreadsheets, there will be a few order forms in the office. Please only use these if you have to as we prefer to save the trees than print the 3 page order form. Orders back by Monday 23rd please.

Thanks, Tracy & Paula

Amidst all the talk of national cycleways, the humble Harbour Cycle Network will be co-hosting a family wheels day with the Chalmers Community Board to celebrate and promote the progress of the cycle/walkway from Dunedin to Maia on Sunday 29 March. You are invited to gather at the University Aquatic Centre at 10 am and to use the path at your leisure. The main emphasis of the day will be encouraging people to enjoy the existing cycle/walkway on any form of non-motorised wheels they like, this may include bikes, skateboards, prams, scooters, wheelchairs, roller blades, unicycles... There will be a barbeque provided by the Port Chalmers & District Lions. It would be wonderful if you can come along and support this event as it will be covered by the ODT and will provide a wonderful opportunity for us to encourage our council to extend the path out towards Port Chalmers. Myself and Niki Bould will be present on the day and will provide you with any info regarding progress (or lack of) of the track. Steve Walker.