

NEWSLETTER

RUDOLF STEINER TRUST

OTAGO

TERM1 #8
 23RD MARCH 2010
 471-2163
 office@dunedin.steiner.school.nz
 www.dunedin.steiner.school.nz

UPCOMING EVENTS		MEETINGS	
Saturday 27th March 10am-4pm	Working Bee	7pm Tuesday 23 March	Gardening meeting
Thursday 1 April	Harvest School kindergarten.		
Friday 30th April, 7pm	Quiz Night Port Chalmers Golf Club		

“Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.” — William Butler Yeats

FROM THE OFFICE

Curriculum development

As many will know, the school teachers are engaged in developing our own Steiner School Curriculum. This will be specific to each class level and will provide a picture of the child at each age, their needs, the themes of main and practice lessons, the teaching style and detail of the curriculum in each area. It will also outline the achievement objectives for each class level and the skills expected. In addition the Dunedin Rudolf Steiner Curriculum will show how the Steiner curriculum links in with the National Curriculum. This will not only be a useful tool for teachers but will be available to parents if they want more detailed knowledge of the expectations at each class level. In addition the document will be useful for the Education Review Office and other outside parties who take an interest in our teaching.

Working Bee – Saturday 27 March 10am to 4pm

There are 3 main focus areas for the work bee on Saturday and we look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.

- Fire protection work in the yurts – Lee Vandervis will oversee this part ensuring that the yurts gets their final coat. We will therefore need to have people ready at 10am to move class furniture into the centre of each yurt – or outside, cover it over while the spraying happens and then put it all back in after cleaning around the edges of the yurts, wiping down furniture and cleaning the floors. The fire protection is a priority
- Pathways and drainage around the yurts – Peter Stevenson will be coordinating this work that will ensure that we are ready for winter.
- Fence and steps at the forest – Mark Walrond will work on pulling out an old fence by the forest and cutting steps into the forest to improve playground safety

There are some other jobs to be done including chopping up wood small enough for the fires, window cleaning in kindergartens and yurts, making a small garden outside the green yurt and more including sorting the basement yet again. If it is dry Merrall may be working on the office roof and will need a couple of helpers. So there is plenty of work to be done. Helpful things to bring include tarps or covers for furniture, shovels, wheelbarrows, picks, wire cutters and spades to dig the steps. Cleaning materials – including buckets and sponges for windows and materials for yurt cleaning. A person from each class may give a ring around your child's class to check your plans for coming so that we can ensure that everyone's time is used to the best advantage. If you cannot come then there are still some tasks that can be done outside that time – even getting the yurts organised on the Friday afternoon after school so that the furniture is already moved would be helpful and wood chopping can happen at any time. There are still some dolls from kindergarten that need to be taken away and repaired. Here's hoping for some good weather and a productive and sociable day.

Feedback from the Proprietors meeting

The Proprietors' remit includes both the property and also the Special Character of the school. We discussed the remaining work that needs to be done on the yurts and planned out the work to be done at the work bee. Electricity will be in the yurts before too long! We also talked about the area under the green yurt which is to be a garden and orchard and how we may use some outside help to clear the area of bramble. Special Character was discussed both in relation to new families joining and also teachers. We will arrange for new families to have the opportunity to discuss what it means to have enrolled their child at a Steiner School and what the school and parent expectations are. Having had a new teacher in the school this year it was pertinent to look at the Steiner curriculum support she was receiving – both from her mentor, from her Taruna training and also from Rachel Barrington visiting from Christchurch.

The Proprietors also discussed the financial situation of the school and how the requested donation level had been raised to cover the teaching staff. This is a temporary measure until the numbers of children enrolled in the school reaches 52 and our funding from the ministry increases at that point. We now have 37 children on the school roll. So if we have fifteen more children everyone can breathe out again. The proprietors also reaffirmed that no child would ever be held back from having a Steiner education here because of financial considerations. It was also stressed that this is a confidential matter that teaching staff do not have access to. If a family has concerns about the level of donation they can pay they should contact Clare or Leonie.

Admin Work

In the last week of term we would like to use 2 typists a day (29th, 30th and 31st) to help finish our curriculum. This would be paid work. If interested, please contact Clare.

Harvest Festival

Next Thursday 1st April the kindergarten and school will celebrate Harvest Festival. The kindergarten will join together to celebrate here at the school at 10 and then the school will make their harvest offerings, perform some of their pieces, and have a shared lunch at Ravensbourne Hall. Families are all welcome. So school will start as normal at 9 and children are asked to bring a harvest offering. The kindergarten festival will start at 10 and parents are asked to be here before then and to bring something to share for morning tea. Kindergarten children who need to stay for the whole day will do so, while some kindergarten families may want to head down to Ravensbourne Hall. The School festival will start at 11.45am at Ravensbourne Hall – shared lunch will be had there so please bring shared lunch there or ensure your child has brought something to school to take. Please ensure that your child is collected from Ravensbourne Hall at 2pm.

Quiz Night

Reminder that we have an organic basket set up in the office for your contributions. This will be aprt of the raffle at the Quiz night. Also do remember to enter your team for the quiz – on Friday 30 April

PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

News from Class 1

Twice twenty twitches twirl the twain,
To wind between them twisted twine. ...

Class one recite many alliterative verses as we finish the last few letters of this block. We have run overtime a bit but this group of letters has a significance as the "evolutionary progression", so we'll try to complete the last few. (If we have any left over we'll do them at Extra Main so we can start our planned math block at the beginning of next term.)

And this particular verse reminded us of the twisty twirlies that the children made for their seat covers. Thank you to the stitchers who so promptly completed and returned them. They are beautiful and much appreciated!

Yurt Cleaning Roster

The Alger, Oswald and Barriga families are on yurt duty this week.

Cls	Wk 2	Wk 3	Wk 4	Wk 5	Wk 6	Wk 7	Wk 8	Wk 9
1	Dunroy	Xu	Barton	Tamang	Funnell	Holmes	Alger	Henderson
2/3	Walrond	Cain	Wood	Schweikert	Stevenson	Cunningham	Oswald	Holloway
4	Stichnoth	Miles -	Noyes	Cohen	Degas	Tapealava	Barriga	Whitehead

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Reserve families: Botica, MacDonald

Yurt Cleaning Duty consists of sweeping the yurt twice during the week (preferably on Tuesday and Thursday) either before or after school. Each yurt has its own broom, dustpan and brush. The duty family also needs to bring a bag of kindling for fire starting during the week. For Class 1 duty – could one of the sweeps please be Fri afternoon or Monday morning so the week starts with a clean Yurt.

KINDERGARTEN NEWS

We are still planting our garden with vegetable plants for winter and would appreciate any seedlings that you may have propagated at home. There are rows of carrot and beetroot seeds planted but if there are others that you may think of that you may have stored on your garden shelf we would be happy to plant them at kindergarten. We would especially like some perpetual spinach, more carrot seed and cabbage for adding to our vegetable soup.

The kindergarten enjoyed Louis dressing as a leprechaun on St Patrick's Day. He was very green.
Whaea Sandra

PLAYGROUP NEWS

What a wonderful day we had! Our Autumn festival was a great success, with beautiful weather and a lovely group of families from our different playgroups, as well as a representative from the Invercargill Steiner Playgroups. A big thank you to all the families that came along to make this such a special day. Also thanks to Whaea Sandra for helping with the marionette show.

Autumn is a time to reflect back over the year, and see the fruits of our efforts in the bounty of our harvest, and this is certainly true in our playgroups! The dedication and energy put in by all our playgroup facilitators is visible in the vitality of our playgroups. A big 'thank you' goes out to all the people who have been involved in supporting the playgroups over the years. A special mark of appreciation goes to the proprietors for helping to fund the set-up of the yacht club, to the University of Otago Clubs and Societies for the use of the Yacht club space, to the Waitati Hall, and to the lovely ladies in the office Clare and Leonie for all their help. And a last but not least, a big thank you to the playgroup facilitators themselves, Anna, Cecil, Elan, Jorinde, Junko, Ros and Tace.

Our playgroup facilitators meeting is scheduled for April 9th at 10am in the Rata room. This is when we make plans for the new term, support each other, and share visions for new directions in the playgroup. Anyone who thinks they might like to be a facilitator some day, or simply wishes to be more involved in supporting the playgroups, is welcome to come along (children welcome!). *Cecil*

CRAFTGROUP NEWS

Tuesday 30 March 9:00 – 12:45	Ravensbourne Hall	Cloth snail making with Motoko. Bring your own sewing kit, and if you would like to recycle cotton or wool cloths, bring them with you too.
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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.

Walking bus

Thanks to those who have expressed enthusiasm for keeping the walking bus idea going. Alice may be keen to takeover co-ordination but doesn't have a land line yet. In the meantime we'll take a DIY approach, ie: either walk with your own children or make arrangements directly with another parent if you need to. -Tracy

House to rent in Waitati

4 bedroom house for rent in Waitati, mid June until end of October, ring Tom and Vicky 4250705....

Private Board urgently required for 1st Year Health Science student.

Ex-Steiner student and daughter of a Steiner teacher from Christchurch. Preferably walking distance from University (and is a fit walker), and quiet atmosphere needed for focussed study. If you know of anywhere which might work, please contact Mary asap (03)3294365 or 0277721020 or email maryfryer@clear.net.nz

Message from Olive McRae

For those that do not already know, I am going to be standing in the local body elections for a seat on Council, and on our Waikouaiti Coast Community board. This message is to establish a support network for my campaign. There will be all manner of things that I need support with, from emotional support to practical support. Some things I will need on-going, some as a one-off. If you feel that you can help in some way then please email me on nomassmedication@gmail.com

MA-FI ARTS HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

CHILDREN'S ART WORKSHOP

1st Floor – Room 104

KING EDWARD COURT

Cnr Stuart St and York Place

Large, warm, well
equipped studio : two experienced,
professional Artists will be your Tutors.
Drawing & Design *Painting*Sculpture*
*Print-Making*Pottery*Mask-Making*

WED-7th–FRI 16th APR

Daily: 8/9am-12 noon & 1-4/5/5:30pm

Preference given those enrolled for more than one session

3hr sessions: 15 hrs - \$100 (5 days @ \$20/time)

4hr sessions: 20hrs - \$130 (5 days @ \$26/time)

All day session available

All Materials Included.

CHILDREN'S ART CLASSES - throughout School Terms 2010:

OPEN: Mon-Fri 3:00-6:15pm, Sat. 9/10:00am-12:00 & 2:00-4/5:00pm Fees: \$20 for 2hrs &/or up to 3hrs

Enquiries/Enrolments: Ph-KEC 477 6112 / Hm 472-8072 / Cell. 021-114-7971.

Tutors: Matthew Robertson BFA, Dip.Tchg, Registered Teacher

& Fiona Shaw-Robertson BFA

email: ma-fiarts@clear.net.nz

Website <http://www.ma-fiarts.co.nz>

OSCAR APPROVED: WINZ Subsidies available to eligible families.