

UPCOMING EVENTS		MEETINGS	
Friday 18 th April	Last day Term 2	KMC	<u>This Thursday 3rd April at 7:30pm</u> venue TBA
Monday 5 th May	First Day Term 3	Proprietors Meeting	Thursday 17 th April at 7:00pm at School
Sunday 30 th March	Working Bee 10am to 3pm	Board of Trustees Meeting	Thursday 10 th April at 7:15pm
Mon-Wed 26 - 28 May	Marjorie Theyer Visit		

FROM THE OFFICE

Here's a little bit about myself in case you haven't met me yet. My name is Leonie Rousselot and I live in Waitati, where I have been for the last 20 years or so and I still really like it there. My partner and I have a forest and we have just recently protected the native areas under a QEII covenant and this is where I work part-time when I'm not in the office.

You will find me in the Steiner School office on Mondays and Tuesdays, from 9am to 3pm.

This is now my 3rd day on my own and I feel like there is still a lot to learn. So please be patient if things are not running as efficient or as smoothly as you have come to expect from Andrea. It takes time to come to terms with all the different aspects of this job and 2 days a week is not a lot to work with. A big thank you to Andrea for all her hard work and the stability she has brought to the office for the last 5 years.

I aim to have the Kindy invoices out by the end of the week. My apologies for taking so long as I am still familiarizing myself with the new software programme and would like to have the invoices accurate.

I would like to get to know you all in time and probably will not remember all your names the first time round, so when you deal with me in the office it would help me if you introduce yourselves and please don't be offended if I have to ask for your names again. So hope to see you all around.

Working Bee

Thank you to all who attended the working bee. A *lot* was accomplished. It was great to see so many people turn up to help. And we are especially grateful to Ryan McDonald who volunteered to coordinate future working bees which will make things work even smoother.

New Website

We have a new school website and it is now finally loaded onto the server that Alex King makes available to us free of charge. Feedback in any form will be greatly appreciated: To Manfred or Clare. We are planning to have the Newsletters available through the website as well.

Our web address is:

<http://www.dunedin.steiner.school.nz/>

THANK YOUs

With the launch on Friday of our school/kindy website it is timely to thank those people who have been instrumental in making it happen.

Many thanks is due to Chris Mason (from Otago Uni) for his many voluntary hours creating the web design, also to Clare who was responsible for putting together the written content. Particular thanks and appreciation to Manfred for his relentless commitment to getting the website up and running, editing the pages and spending countless hours over the past months on putting it all together. We now have a website we can be proud of and the opportunity for our playgroup/kindergarten and school to be 'discovered' by the wider world.

SCHOOL NEWS

Professional Development:

Letting parents of classes 4-6 know that I will be attending a week-long course at Taruna College in the use of arts in the Steiner curriculum and am excited to be learning from long-standing arts teacher and teacher-educator, Van James from the Hawaiian Waldorf School. Thank you to those parents who have congratulated me on my efforts using the various arts thus far; I do however look forward to deepening my knowledge, especially in those areas I have less experience in.

Jocelyn Broughton will be teaching the class in my absence; please introduce yourself to her if you see her!

Parent rep

We still do not have a parent liaison for the upper classes (C4/5/6). If you could take on this role please speak to Lee personally. Our first task would be the setting up of a phone tree for this new group.

Many thanks,

Lee Noyes

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

The children were very excited to see the wonderful changes to the playground. Thank you so much for your efforts at the working bee. Colin has made a beautiful new table for the kindergarten. It is the same height as the bigger table and is longer. This allows for more sitting spaces. Thank you, Colin.

The children are enjoying the autumn theme to our activities and stories. This week we are hearing the story of Mother Nature's Autumn Blanket. We have new children starting in the kindergarten welcome to Imogen this week. Tiaki and Niall will be starting soon.

Protecting your child

The modern world is very over-stimulating to all of us and in Steiner education we emphasise the importance of protecting your child from exposure to media. We have recently discussed the problems with exposure to television but there are other areas of concern also. The young child is very open to all experiences. During the first three years of life, the child must learn to use his or her ears to 'tune in' to help assimilate the frequencies of his/her own language. Hearing loss is a well recognised learning disability. Less attention has been paid to problems with auditory discrimination. This is a 'listening' difficulty. Speech development may have been normal but the child has difficulty hearing the difference between similar blended sounds such as ch and sh. This leads to language difficulties later in class work. Some children hear too much and cannot filter sounds. There are many reasons why these difficulties occur including ear nose and throat infections and lack of auditory stimulation. Another reason can be the young child having too much artificial background noise during the first three years of life. Artificial sound means radio, recorded music, electronic sound etc. The child needs to hear voices but they learn to block out artificial sound. Music is very important in Steiner education. Recorded music is not used. The children use verses, music and rhymes to help learning. Reading levels improve when children sing. Rhymes and songs are very important in the kindergarten. When singing we are listening, vocalising and learning to hear pitch and rhythm. Try to protect your child from artificial sounds and sing, sing, sing.

'Sound is vibration, motion and energy. Sound passes through all levels of the brain, affecting not just the ear and the vestibular but also our bodies through n bone conduction. The significance of sound for learning is immeasurable, (Goddard, S 1996 p.55)

Reference: Goddard, S. (1996) *A Teacher's Window into the Child's Mind*. Fern Ridge Press, Oregon.

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.

KMC Bulb Fundraiser

Last change to place your bulb orders. The deadline has been extended to **Tuesday 1st April**. Please bring in your orders with payment to the office on Tuesday!

Please make cheques payable to Dunedin Rudolf Steiner Kindergarten.

There is a box on the office counter for these which is emptied regularly.

The Kindergarten will receive 20% of the order value - this will go towards equipment needed.

Please build up your order by getting friends and family to join up.

Many thanks for your support!

CRAFT GROUP NEWS

This month watch for Sunday's Doll making Workshop. No registration necessary, just turn up.

Tuesday 1 st April	9am to 1pm	Finish Crochet Ball with Linda and Kirsten. Bring all your works and old socks.
Sunday 13 th April	10am to 3pm	Doll Making with Cecil. Bring needles and scissors. PART I: Make the head. Please think about what character you would like to make. Pay \$25 if you want to keep your doll or it's FREE if the doll stays with the Craft Group. Bring some food to share. No children, please.
Tuesday 15 th April	9am to 1pm	Flax Weaving with Junko.

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

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 27th 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

*The next Community Choir is on **Wednesday 9 April at 6:00pm**. Please bring music or a song to share. See you there!*

The Spiritual Impulse of Anthroposophy and The Foundation Stone

The annual conference of the Anthroposophical Society in New Zealand will take place from 4-7 July 2008 at Michael Park Rudolf Steiner School, 55 Amy Street, Ellerslie, Auckland.

The Guest Speaker is Sergei Prokofieff, author and lecturer, who will give three lectures.

This conference is open to anyone who seeks knowledge of Anthroposophy. A full registration or casual registration is available with a choice of lectures, workshops and an evening artistic performance. Details of the conference programme and on-line registration is available at www.anthroposophy.org.nz

For enquiries to Vee Noble, phone (09) 627 2044, veenoble@xtra.co.nz