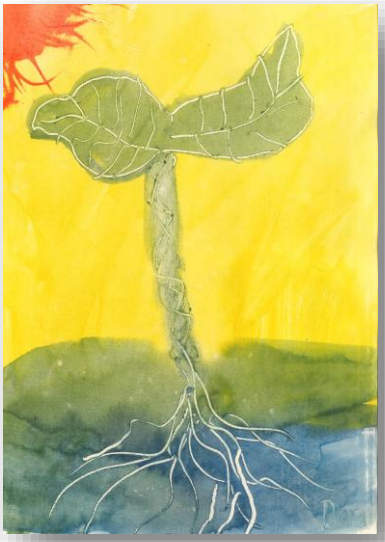
Education
Dunedin Rudolf Steiner
Learning with head, heart and hands

Term 3
12
26 August 2026
471-2163
office@dunedinsteiner.nz
www.dunedinsteiner.nz

There will emerge out of the womb of worlds,
To quicken senses' shine, the joy in growth.
Now may it find my force of thought
Well armed through forces of the gods,
Which forceful, live within my self.

Rudolf Steiner translated by Daisy Aldan



NEWSLETTER

2026 TERM 3

School	
Rāmere/Friday 28th Aug	5:30 to 6:30pm School disco
Rāmere/Friday 25th Sep	12:30pm School Spring festival
Kindergarten	
Rātū/Tuesday 1st Sep	5:30 - 6:30 Kindergarten Parent Evening
Rāapa/Wed 23rd Sep	Kindy Spring festival
Governance	
Rātū/Tuesday 1st Sep	5:30pm Board meeting
Rātū/Tuesday 22nd Sep	5:30pm Proprietors meeting (AGM)
Other	
Rāmere/Friday 4th Sept	**2pm – 5pm Working Bee**
Playgroup	Rāhina/Mondays and Rāapa/Wednesdays 9:30 to 11:30 am
Craftgroup	Rātū/Tuesdays 9 to 11am

Kia ora koutou,

Thank you to everyone who attended the community hui and ceilidh – a beautiful occasion, which was enjoyed by young and old!

Now that we have warmed up with the dancing, the school children are next with their school disco this Friday. Please make sure you read all the relevant communications about the disco and we look forward to welcoming the school children for a fun evening!

Once the dancing is completed, it is time for work so if you are able, please come to our working bee on the 4th of September from 2-5pm (see more information below).

We have welcomed the sunshine in the last couple of days with lots of time outside and an appreciation of the first bulbs and flowers popping up around the place; we are starting to see some flower decorations around the place as well as in children's hair. However, please still make sure that your child has a set of clothes to change into, good footwear and a rain jacket as we still want the children to be outside when it is wet.

We look forward to more sunshine, drier grounds and more time watching spring come to life!

Kā mihi nui,

Anna Noble – Tumuaki

Special Character Thoughts: The Melancholic Temperament

By Anna Noble

The melancholic temperament is winter, it is earth, it is heavy and grounded. The melancholic child is more reserved, they observe and contemplate and do not jump into action quickly. They rarely speak but when they do, their words will be well measured and full of wisdom.

Picture from A Waldorf Journey

The melancholic temperament is not the lead, not the social balm but the person that will work in private, contemplating their own experiences of the world around them. If they make friends, they will be selective and heavily reliant on those very deep connections, to the point of co-dependence. They feel deeply the difficulties

of the earth and have a tendency to question the importance of anything, including life itself.

It is most important for parents and teachers to support the melancholic temperament in their maturing process through clear routines, acknowledgement of their deep emotions and, without rush, encouraging physical movement and a positive focus. Eventually, the deep self-pity will turn into deep compassion for others. The mature melancholic, when well balanced with the other temperaments, becomes a wise counsellor, the healer, the person who is able to share differing views and perspectives in a compassionate manner.

It is therefore easy to see how a sanguine child and a melancholic child need each other, both for the characteristics their temperaments bring and both to ensure a balanced maturing process from childhood into adulthood.

Weleda Parent Helper

We want to thank Xaviera for the time she has been our Weleda helper. Thank you Xav we appreciate your help and effort to fit this into your busy life!

We are looking for someone who would be interested in helping organise the Weleda orders fundraiser. Once a term we order items directly from Weleda, some are placed for sale in the craft shop, some are ordered directly by people in the community. We are looking for someone who can gather the requests and place an order with Weleda and who will then calculate the cost of the goods and inform the buyers of the price and put orders together for collection. Is this something that you can help us with? If so, please get in touch with the office.

School Ceilidh

About a fortnight ago on a wintry Saturday evening in the Ravensbourne Hall, our Steiner Community had its annual Ceilidh dance. The music was provided by Jock's band, an experienced group of players with Jock himself as the "Caller". He had no trouble getting anyone onto the dance floor, as everyone jumped up to participate at the first opportunity. It was wonderful to see children feeding off the adults' enthusiasm (and vice versa) as all ages joined in the various group dances. Because the crowd is guided through the steps before the music starts, it's a level playing field, and those who shine, do so through their enthusiasm as much than anything else. If you didn't make it this year, please come next time. Once again I was reminded what a warm and affirming community we belong to. *Rob Wigley*

News from the Proprietors Trust

The Trust welcomes two new members: Lydia Stacey and Andrew Lett, both of them are parents at the school. It is great to have our numbers boosted as we look towards major developments on the land. The Trust has responsibility for land and buildings, special character and the governance of the kindergarten. There are 6 members of the Trust and it would be great to have more people around the table who would share in the tasks ahead. If you are interested, then please ask at the office or email proprietors@dunedinsteiner.nz

Working Bee Friday 4th September from 2pm

We look forward to our termly working bee, with a focus on building the kindergarten sandpit. We will have other jobs on the list too: our list will be circulated soon. Working bees are very much part of the special character of the school, bringing the community together while also enhancing our environment. If we had a couple of parents willing to look after the pizza oven, then we could extend the school's pizza day to share the delicious pizzas with you.

Please would you let Clare know if you will be there to work on the sandpit or staff the pizza oven. Clare.Ridout@dunedinsteiner.nz

Many hands make light work!

SCHOOL- HANDWORK & WOODWORK

It's not every day that Calvin and Hobbes get to illustrate principles of Steiner Education. But this clipping beautifully portrays the kind of creative flexibility and joyful positive thinking that I would hope for, for all children. Sadly, these are fugitive traits in the face of screen time, and it doesn't take much to spoil healthy instincts.

Handwork and woodwork have been central experiences for Steiner pupils since the opening of the first school in Stuttgart, 100 years ago. Steiner was deeply involved in

structuring the programme, even to the point of choosing the colour for the work room walls; light violet, inclining to red because it calms the mind, while engaging the will. He emphasised that the projects be useful as well as beautiful, and be beautifully finished with great care and attention to detail. He maintained a lively interest in the children's progress as long as he lived.

Handwork is not primarily about making things. It is about who we become when we make things. It is an education of the will (read Will Developed Intelligence by Livingstone and Mitchell). The truth of the statement that "the nervous system develops through movement" has been borne out by science and is the basis of any number of our differences from mainstream schooling.

The fingers and the hands have nerve bundles that are directly linked to language centres in the brain and Steiner described the hands as " the most intelligent part of the body". Contrast handwork to the (in)activity of using an electronic device.

In the primary school we teach to, and through the inner life of feeling, which is why we teach through the arts. Artistic work requires constant judgements of feelings; is it too red? Does it feel too pale? Too big and heavy on the left? Does it feel finished? And True and Beautiful and Good? The last are the "Platonic Virtues", contributing to moral development.

I am encouraging the classes to work more with colour and form than with representational image, and through following a creative thread rather than an industrial tick list. Otherwise it becomes head work not handwork. In the Agricultural Course, lectures that formed the basis for biodynamics, Steiner states: "The weaving life of nature is very fine and delicate, we cannot sense it - it eludes our coarse-grained intellectual conceptions." In handwork, I want the children to swim in this creative stream. He also used the phrase “direct experience”.

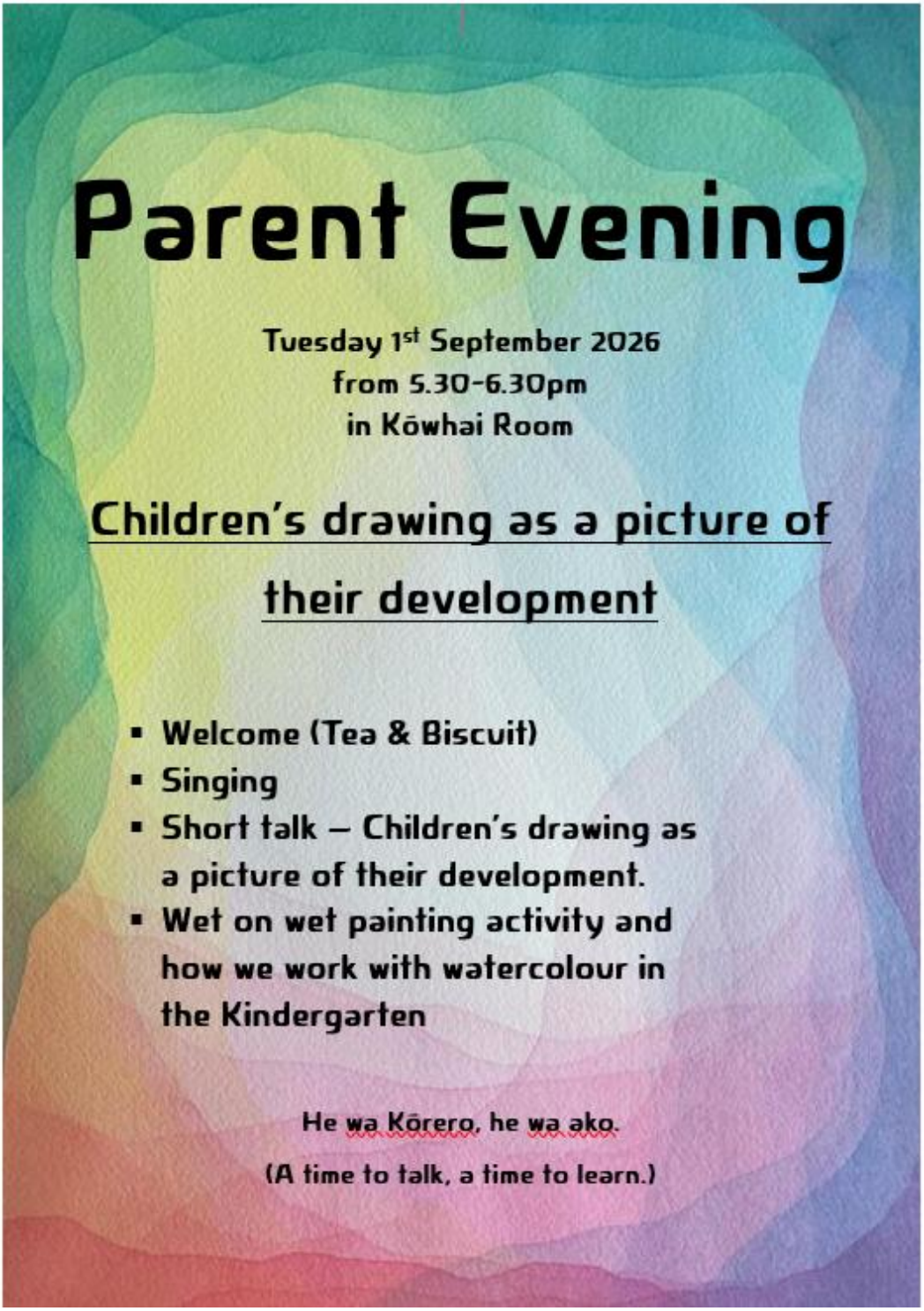
The children are good naturedly industrious and the workshop is a very busy, if noisy, place. They have been very forgiving about all the transitions they've experienced. In and out of the room, construction, misplaced materials as we reorganise (where did I put ...?) and three teachers within a month. Thank goodness for Sharyn, the glue that holds everything together. She brings continuity and has kept things ticking for years. The children universally and unconditionally love her.

And there will be another handover when the right person comes along. My tenure here is accidental and temporary. (I am, after all, 173.) But I am having the time of my life. I always wanted to teach only handwork and woodwork. It has finally come to pass and for now, I get to work with each one of your wonderful children at this wonderful school.

Thank you, *Alex MacNeille*

KINDERGARTEN

We are looking forward to holding our parent evening next Tuesday 1st September. 5:30pm.



Spring is certainly springing in our garden and we have all been enjoying the warmth and spring energy of the children. There are exciting plans to re-do our sandpit at our up-coming working bee on the 4th Sept which will be a well-timed improvement as the warmer weather arrives.

Warmly, *The Kindy Kaiako*

PLAYGROUP

Ciara Dean and Miriam Marler facilitate our playgroup sessions on Mondays and Wednesdays. The sessions run from 9:30 to 11:30am. You can contact playgroup by emailing playgroup@dunedinsteiner.nz

CRAFTGROUP

We meet on Tuesdays after drop-off in the playgroup room. If you have some spare time and enjoy handwork, join us for a lovely social time. Thanks, Miho-0211294323

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@dunedinsteiner.nz. We charge $10 for an advert and need ads in by the Monday prior to the Wednesday publication date. You can pay by direct internet banking to 03-0903-0437318-00 **Disclaimer: This space is open to advertisers and the school does not make any guarantees or endorsement on their behalf**.

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WHERE AM I IN MY LIFE?

A day of anthroposophic biography work and creative expression

Where have I come from?
Where am I now?
What is wanting to emerge?

A space to pause, reflect, and discover where you are in your own life story — through teaching, guided reflection, and creative exploration. For anyone, not only those facing an obvious crossroads. Private, reflective work — sharing is always optional.

SATURDAY 10 OCTOBER 2026

10.30am – 5.00pm

Villa Rustica, Heywards Point Rd, above Port Chalmers

Small group · Limited spaces

NZ$180 — lunch and all materials provided

Please reach out with any questions:

julie@ourhumanlife.org

2026 SWIM CLUB ONLINE REGISTRATION

https://bit.ly/2026rego

Swimmers 5+ years welcome to join

Contact: portswimclub@gmail.com

Follow us: Port Chalmers Swim Club & stay up to date with club news and events

Learn-to-Swim Lessons
Development Squad
Competitive Squad
SwimFit Squad

PORT CHALMERS SWIM CLUB

Inner-Landscape Water Colour Paintings for Sale: David Fletcher, from Karitane, has abstract water colour paintings for sale on the Felt NZ website. The examples below give you an idea of his work. If you are interested in buying any of his paintings, visit davidatkaritane.felt.co.nz

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Forest & Bird - Bird of the Year 2026: **The Royal Albatross Centre** is campaigning for the **Northern Royal Albatross (Toroa)** to take the crown and become the reigning 2026 champion. Would you spread the word and vote for the albatross please?

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A one-day workshop of anthroposophic biography work and creative exploration: Julie MacLeod will be offering a workshop in October. More information here: https://events.humanitix.com/where-am-i

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