Education
Dunedin Rudolf Steiner
Learning with head, heart and hands

Term 4
15
21 October 2026
471-2163
office@dunedinsteiner.nz
www.dunedinsteiner.nz

To cosmic All there speaks,
Forgetting self
And mindful of its primal state,
The waxing "I" of Man:
In you, in liberating
Myself from my subjective fetters,
I fathom essence of my being.

Rudolf Steiner translated by Daisy Aldan

NEWSLETTER

TERM 4 Monday 12th of October to Friday 11th December

School		
Rāhina /Monday 12th October		term 4 starts
Rāhina /Mondays		Swimming lessons for school children
Rāmere/Friday 23rd October		Teacher only day- school closed, kindy open
Kindergarten		
Governance		
Rātū/Tuesday 3rd November		5:30pm Proprietors meeting
Rātū/Tuesday 10th November		5:30pm Board meeting
General		
Rāhina /Monday 26 October		Public holiday: Labour Day
Rātu/Tuesday 27th October		School photos
Rāpare/Thursday 5th November		Open Day 9:30 school, 10:45 kindy
Rāhoroi/Saturday 7th November		10 to 2pm Working Bee
Rāhina/Monday 16th November		2-3pm **Mary Willow talk**–playgroup room
Rātu/Tuesday 17th November		6.30 to 7.30pm **Mary Willow talk for parents**
Playgroup	Rāhina/Mondays and Rāapa/Wednesdays	9:30 to 11:30 am
Craftgroup	Rātū/Tuesdays	9 to 11am

Kia ora e te whānau,

What a start to the term it has been – starting with sunshine and warmth and before we could get used to it, heavy rain and temperatures that said single digits but felt much colder!

And yet it did not impact the annual Marae visit out in Karitane – even in the rain the view out the window was stunningly beautiful and the work inside was warming the hands, the head and the heart! After our welcome, we all experienced tākaro, taiaha, weaving and kapa haka and the day just flew by. It was lovely to see the tamariki moving so comfortably between the wharenui and the wharekai end embracing all the learning. After most of the school left, class Kea began their noho marae, with a different way of learning karakia, games that made the most of the space that we were in, waka and history – another full day of learning and being with each other in the te ao space, which the class embodied and lived in in the most beautiful way for their entire time on the Marae.

It has been a lovely way to start the term and we look forward to holding on to the feeling of community that the day has left us with!

Please note all the upcoming dates above, in particular the teacher only day this Friday (school will be closed, kindergarten remains open).

Kā mihi nui,

Anna Noble – Tumuaki

Special Character Thoughts:
Te Ao Māori and our Special Character

By Anna Noble

We often talk about the fact that the Special Character of our school and te ao Māori are a very natural fit but where are the parallels that allow us to live the special character in this bicultural context?

- **Rhythms:** It starts with the idea that there is a framework around how we do things, starting the day, a meeting or any other gathering in a formal way through a verse, karakia, pōwhiri or mihi whakatau allows us to settle and live whanaungatanga and sets and clarifies the intention on a deeper level.
- **Story telling:** Learning about life and the world is achieved through storytelling. In te ao Māori this is done through stories or waiata as they are the ways of passing on stories, history and whakapapa. In both spaces it is done without pointing out the ‘moral of the story’ or the intended learning but rather by allowing the story itself to live and work within the listener and therefore giving room for individualised learning. The

focus is often on looking backwards to know where we have come from to help understand how we ended up here and allow us to place ourselves in place and time and the tasks that come with it.

- **Head, heart and hands:** Our threefold philosophy of learning with head, heart and hands can be compared with the concept of hinengaro, which refers to the mind or intellect, ngākau or wairua, which refers to the heart and spirit and tinana, which refers to the physical or hands-on work – all three have connections to the spiritual world and allow the children to learn holistically and for the learning to build connections between head, heart and hands.
- **Kaitiakitanga** is at the heart of what and how we view the world and what the intended outcome of learning for our tamariki is; a strong emphasis on a deep and reverent connection to the natural world that allows children to take action as required based on an understanding of responsibility to the world around us, in particular the natural world.

When these values are embodied, children will learn a deeply rooted responsibility to the world, understand how their action impacts the natural and social environment around them and will grow up with a sense of soul community that will be a guiding compass throughout their lives.

Mary Willow - PlumParenting.com - Helping Parents with Parenting

We are looking forward to welcoming a fabulous educator and mentor, Mary Willow, who is visiting us in November. She will give two talks to parents and we warmly encourage you to mark one of these dates.

Monday 16th from 2-3pm talk for parents (held in our playgroup space)

Tuesday 17th 6.30 to 7.30pm talk for parents

Working bee - Saturday 7th November from 10 to 2pm

We look forward to welcoming you to our termly working bee - a little way off but handy to mark it in your diaries! Our working bees are part of our social fabric and they also get useful jobs done around the kura. More details to follow.

News from the Board

Kia ora koutou, I'm writing with a termly update on behalf of the School Board to share a little of what we have been working on recently. As you may be aware, the Board is responsible for the school's strategic governance, performance and compliance requirements.

We extend a warm welcome to James Guthrie who has recently joined the Board as the Staff representative. He takes over from Trisha Geraets and we thank her for her valuable insights and generous contributions.

Much of our recent work has been focused around the first goal of our annual Strategic Plan: Excellence for all pupils in our Steiner Waldorf Special Character School.

In our August meeting, we reviewed the biannual literacy and numeracy achievement data presented in the Tumuaki Report. Two board members who have recently completed a NZSBA Student Achievement workshop presented their findings back to the group and proposed amendments to our procedure to help fine tune the review process, helping us ensure that all required support is in place and regularly reviewed.

It was so helpful to have Board members bringing back their learning from the NZSBA workshop to share with us. We plan to continue that model going forward; to help upskill and make sure we are staying up to date with various governance changes.

Thank you to all our wonderful Board members for the vital work you are putting in each month to help our wonderful school

*Zoe Cummings o*n behalf of the Dunedin Rudolf Steiner School Board

Yurt for sale

Our little Mongolian Yurt is for sale. It is listed on Trademe. Have a look and make an offer through Trademe if you are interested. Come and have a look. Sold as is and the buyer must take it down.

Yurt advert on trademe

This is the end of an era - we bought 3 Mongolian yurts back in 2008 when the school was growing out of two classrooms. There will be a number of people out there who had a hand in putting them up (and taking them down!)

And if you are interested in something smaller, we are looking to rehome a wardrobe. Perhaps offer $40 or similar.

SCHOOL-KAPA HAKA

E ngā mātua, e ngā reo, e ngā korokoro tui o te kura nei, tēnā koutou katoa,

It has been so special to see the love and enjoyment our tauira are developing for Kapa Haka. Over the past few weeks, I have heard many kōrero from our tauira about the waiata they have been learning, not only which songs they enjoy singing, but also the meaning behind the waiata and the stories they carry.

Term 3 and term 4, we have introduced something new into our Kapa Haka learning. When we learn a new waiata, we don't simply learn the words and tune. We take the time to explore the meaning together.

I teach the waiata, and then, as a rōpū, we work together to translate and understand the kupu. From there, we kōrero and wānanga about the waiata why was it written? Who was it written for? What is the kaupapa? What might the waiata be asking us to think about or feel?

In this way, the waiata becomes more than something we sing. It becomes a story, a connection, and a way of understanding.

This feels very much at home within our Steiner approach, where learning is experienced through the whole child, through the head, heart, and hands. Through waiata, our tauira are learning language, history, culture and meaning, while also experiencing the joy of singing and being part of a rōpū.

One waiata has captured the hearts of our tamariki and some kaiako and parents. ***E ngā iwi***. I have heard so much feedback about this waiata, with some parents asking for the words and guitar chords so they can continue singing it at home. It has been especially lovely to hear that it has become one of the waiata most sung in their homes

So, as a little koha from me to our Kura whānau, I would like to share the words and guitar chords for **E ngā iwi** in this newsletter, so that the waiata can continue beyond our Kapa Haka sessions and into our homes and whānau.

Ka pū te ruha, ka hao te rangatahi.

When the old net is worn, the new net is cast.
Anei te waiata.
<u>E ngā iwi o te motu</u>
Chords: D, G, D, and A

E ngā iwi o te motu
Karangatia rā, e pōwhiritia rā
<u>Māranga</u>
Maranga ngā iwi o te motu nei
E karangatia rā

<u>Waiata</u>
Waiata a kori
Waiata a ringa
Poi, haka taparahi e HI HA!
Koinei te mahi a ngā tupuna
Kia kaha rā e.

<u>Kia kaha</u>
Kia kaha rā e …. Hi aua HI!
Ngā manaakitanga, *Korina Ellison*

KINDERGARTEN

Nau mai haere mai! Welcome to Term 4!

A very warm welcome to our new children and their whānau joining our kindergarten community this term; Jade and Ariadne in the Rata room and Selma in the Kōwhai room. We are finishing the year with lovely full rooms.

This Term we will have our twice yearly whānau meetings in week 4. This is a time to meet with your child's teacher if you would like, to talk about your child's kindergarten journey. Time slots will be available this week with our sign in sheets. A phone meeting is also an option if this is easier.

A quick reminder for all children to bring a sunhat each day this term and refresh changes of clothes as needed.

Our garden is flourishing with new growth, and we are keen to plant a few more seedlings with the children. If you have any extra seedlings at home, please bring some to share.

We all very much enjoyed a spring visit from Roberta's wee lamb Grace last week.

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**.

DCC: To celebrate **Aotearoa Play Week**, we're excited to be launching a new Dunedin playground map that showcases a selection of the wonderful play spaces available across our city. Play Week 2026 | Sport New Zealand - Ihi Aotearoa

Taruna College: Enlivening the Heart's Work 3 Day Workshop
Spring time invites to us to renew ourselves and replenish our source of hope - to find new heart for life. If you are feeling the call for some self nourishment and restoration this spring, we warmly invite you to join us from Thursday 29 - Saturday 31 October for a very special journey of personal deepening and exploration.
This brand new workshop, that nestles in the "Continuing the Journey" series, is designed for both past Taruna students wanting to reconnect with their learning and those new to Taruna looking to connect more deeply with their heart. All are welcome.
Together we'll explore the heart's work, as we journey with our own wisdom to discover how it is the work of our heart that helps us sense and navigate the complexities and blessings of life. We will be nourished through:Insights from the world of anthroposophy, Art, Life Story/Biography,Eurythmy/Movement
We are delighted that Mike Sargent is joining the Taruna team as we offer this workshop. Mike's insights and understandings of the human being are always so inspiring - this time his medical lens will take us on a journey of heart knowing. So if you remember Mike's contributions on our original 'Art of Health' workshops, or know him as a previous school doctor, do take up this opportunity to again work with his wisdom and humanity.
Investment: $595 We would love to welcome you for these heart and soul nourishing days! For more information call the office 06 877 7174 or email us at info@taruna.ac.nz.

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Short-term family rental in summer, in Ravensbourne, Dunedin. With beautiful harbour views and surrounded by nature. Available from: 13th dec to 8th of feb 3 bedrooms 1 bathroom, Laundry Parking 850$ per week (Internet + electricity are not included)
https://www.facebook.com/marketplace/item/1815543956440336/?_rdr

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Inner-Landscape Water Colour Paintings for Sale: David Fletcher, from Karitane, has abstract water colour paintings for sale on the Felt NZ website. The example here gives 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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Teacher Aide Position

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The school seeks an experienced and empathetic teacher aide to work with children in Learning Support. The work would be 14 hours over at least 3 days a week rising to 20 hours over 5 days in 2027. The position starts early November. The successful applicant will work alongside children with high needs and support them in communication, literacy and numeracy and participation in the curriculum. The successful applicant will come with an openness of understanding and working within the principles of the Steiner special character.
To apply send a cover letter, application form and CV to the Principal by 9am on Tuesday 27th October 2026 (email office@dunedinsteiner.nz)