



**Kua mākuru te kai; kā kai te  
 takāta i kā kai hou o te tau**

**Fruits are now ripe, and man eats  
 the new food of the season**



Class kea pupil's mosaic

## NEWSLETTER

### TERM 4

#### School

Rāmere/Friday 12<sup>th</sup> Dec 12 pm School Summer Festival

#### Kindergarten

Rāpare/Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> Dec 12-2pm – Summer Festival

15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> December Kindergarten open during term break

### TERM 1 2026

#### School

Rāhina/Monday 2 February Term 1 starts

Rāmere/Friday 6th February Waitangi Day – Public holiday

#### Kindergarten

19<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> January Kindergarten open during term break

Rāhina/Monday 2 February Term 1 starts

#### Other

Rātapu/Sunday 29th March **SCHOOL FAIR**

#### Governance

Rāapa/Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January 5:30 pm Proprietors meeting

Rātū/Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 5:30 pm Board meeting

**Craft group** every Rāhina/Monday 9 to 11 am in the forest classroom

**Playgroup** Rāhina/Mondays and Rāapa/Wednesdays 9:30 to 11:30 am

Kia ora e te whānau,

It is hard to believe that this is our last newsletter for the year 2025. Looking at the energy that is living in the kindergarten, namely the very ripe 6-year-old children and the slightly more tired younger children, as well as the children in the school; it is clear that we are ready for a good long break. There has been so much activity over the last few weeks:

We spent a beautiful day at the Puketeraki Marae and it was lovely to see the children experience a formal powhiri and then becoming comfortable on the marae, moving confidently between the wharenuī and the wharekai and understanding the different ways of being in both spaces.

Class Kiokio and Class Kea have shared their class plays and we now all know how the elephant has got his trunk and heard many stories about Robin Hood's adventures; two beautiful and entertaining performances.

We are farewelling Emily, Feargal and Ms Busfield at the end of the year and would like to thank them all for their hard work and their contributions to our school community; the children and all of us have been lucky to have you with us and we hope that our paths cross again. Until then, all the best, go well and look after yourselves!

Please have a look at the dates for the next two days; the kindergarten festival is on Thursday and the last school assembly is on Friday.

We would like to thank you for another great year, for your contribution to our community, however big or small and for being supportive and positive as we continue to grow with, learn from and appreciate the children. We wish you all a lovely summer, we hope you can rejuvenate in whichever way works for you and your whānau and we look forward to seeing you again in 2026.

Nāku noa, nā

*Ms Noble* - Tumuaki

## **Special Character Thoughts- Games**

As we are moving into the summer holidays, there will be space for activities with whānau and friends, space for creativity and space for games. As we often look at the why behind doing what we are doing, here is a lovely article about the why of playing games:

Why play games with children?

An infant is born and as Wordsworth sees, is still enveloped in 'heavenly' forces. In the journey through childhood, each young person encounters and passes through what

may be called 'thresholds'. Games a subtly about those thresholds; about how children experience them and how we, their helpers, can identify and give them expression.

The long journey to reveal or discover ourselves and our life's tasks is our life story; we can look upon games as the spaces or punctuation in this story, that give the text meaning. Some children experience isolation and ridicule in games. Self-esteem is badly affected and often has lasting negative effects in other areas of life. The games we play need to value all players regardless of their varying degrees of physical and emotional ability. An enjoyable and satisfying role can be found for all those who play. In many games, can gently involve those who are introverted, focus the unfocused, ease over-dominance or help move stubborn children.

## The Journey

We often say that children 'grow up' – as indeed they do. What would you think, though, if you were to hear that children also 'grow down' and 'grow in'? Children grow through games. They first learn as infants about the world around them, and at times their gaze seems to look far beyond the new physical environment that they have come into. They exist partly in the periphery. Then as the years go by, they spatially come closer' to themselves. They play finger games, clapping games, skipping, romping and running games. They grow more skillful as they learn about space and how to move in it; the games become more demanding, involving greater social complexity and negotiation. The journey from the young child playing finger games to the teenager playing basketball, is a process of coming 'in' and 'down', of growing heavier within the body.

A dynamic exists between growing 'up' and 'down'; and also between 'growing in' to oneself and 'growing out' into the world. Such a view is of special interest to the teacher or therapist; it increases our ability to perceive when a child has become 'stuck' in a particular stage, and to help her overcome the obstruction gently by getting involved in certain games and activities.

Time and again I have witnessed difficult emotional and behavioral problems eased when the right activity is offered and taken up by the child. Suspicious or guarded reactions that may have existed in conversation, begin to fade when a particular game is introduced. The barriers to healing then also begin to fall away.

An extract from Games Children Play II published by Hawthorn Press. This article is by Kim John Payne from [Simplicity Parenting](#). .

This article was taken from the SEANZ website: <https://www.seanz.org/>

The website has some lovely short blogs and a lot of good information about the Steiner movement in Aotearoa as well as around the world– definitely worth a look!

## The kindergarten sandpit

The kindergarten sandpit needs some work to add better drainage and to improve the edging. Would you have time to help over the summer? Help could involve collecting the wood, helping to add the drainage and topping up sand. Could you help with any of these tasks? Please let the office know.

## SCHOOL – HANDWORK & WOODWORK

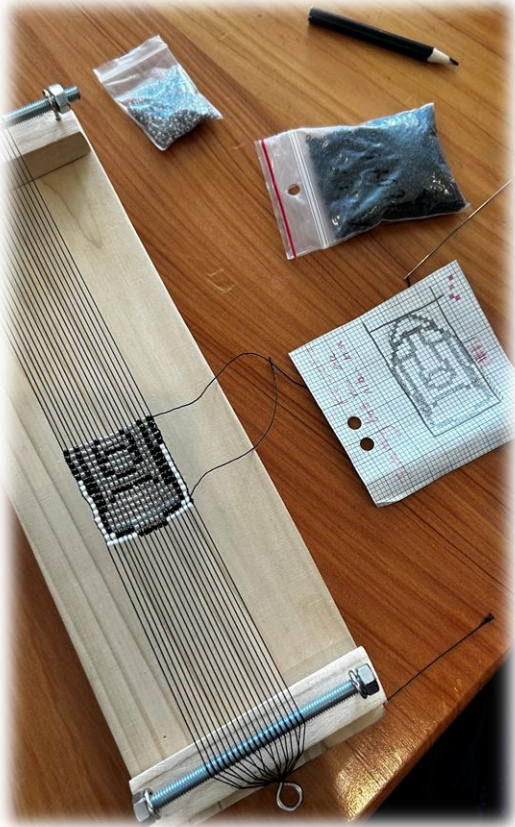
It has been a busy term in Handwork finishing as many projects as possible for the children to bring home and enjoy for the end of the year.

Class Kiokio continue to strengthen their knitting skills making recorder cases, dolls and a variety of animals.

Class Kākāpō are becoming confident crocheters and are working on a special surprise for our incoming class 1 students for next year.

In handwork, both Kererū and Kea have been using the bead looms they made in woodwork to make beautiful beaded items. This project combined skills learnt from prior cross stitch and weaving projects in earlier years.





Woodwork has been a little different this term with class Kea creating mosaics to be installed outside in the kai area to be enjoyed by everyone at break times. This has been a challenging project with lots of new skills learnt!



## **PLAYGROUP**

Just letting you know we're all welcome to the kindergarten summer festival tomorrow afternoon. It's a lovely ritual and celebration of summer as well as a little graduation ceremony for the tuakana children who will be starting school next year.

## **KINDERGARTEN &**

We will celebrate our summer firebird festival this Thursday 11th December from 12 - 2pm. If it rains we have an inside plan b but hopefully we are able to be outside.

Our festival celebrates the summer (heading towards the solstice) as a time when the energies of the earth and the energies of the cosmos are as close as they can be to one another. Fire is a symbol of these energies and has been traditionally used in summer festivals, the birds are often used to symbolise the bridge between the earthly material world and the cosmic spiritual world.

Order of festival:

At 12 the children will come outside and gather on the grass near the slide to sing. Please gather there for the beginning of our festival. Parents and family of tuakana children please gather closest to the willow hut as a short celebration of the tuakana children who will be class one next year, will follow. We will then move to the traditional firebird procession. If two parents are happy to volunteer to be fire guards for the festival that would be wonderful.

We will end with a shared picnic on the grass with a mixture of lunchboxes or shared food. We will encourage the children to stay sitting while eating (it will be the children's lunchtime) and play when they have finished. Our festival will finish at 2pm so some of our teachers can attend the class 7 graduation assembly. Our Kindy session will continue till 3 but of course parents are welcome to sign their children out and take them home by 2pm if this suits.

The mood of the event is enhanced when everyone's attention is present with phones tucked away.

Warmly, *The Kindergarten Kaiako*

## **CRAFT GROUP & SHOP**

Craft group has been meeting weekly on Mondays from 9 to 11 am in the forest classroom. New members are always welcome. Join us next week if you are keen.

The craft shop is getting ready for the Christmas season. We have some new items, lots of local honey from Blueskin Bay, Weleda products, etc. A good place to find Christmas gifts.

## 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](mailto: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.**

Merge NZ is excited to bring NZSL Clubs to Dunedin, thanks to funding from the Festival of Adult Learning Ahurei Ākonga! **Dates & Times:** Tuesdays, [16 Dec](#) | 6.30pm - 8.00pm and 2026 Dates: 10 Feb, 24 Feb, 10 Mar, 24 Mar, 7 April **Location:** St David Complex Seminar (room C G.03), Cnr of St David and Cumberland Streets, **Email:** [nzslclubdunedin@gmail.com](mailto:nzslclubdunedin@gmail.com)

**Who's Invited:** Everyone! Whether you're a beginner, a fluent signer, or just curious, this event is for you. We offer **a supportive and safe learning environment** where everyone can feel comfortable practising and learning at their own pace.

STEINER SCHOOL ART CURRICULUM ADULT LEARNING ONLINE (ZOOM). 2 YEAR COURSE Starting Jan/Feb 2026. Hands on Art, working with the colours through wet on wet painting, Goethes Colour Theory in depth, form drawing and much more. Love to hear if you're interested. Msg Margaret-Mary Farr on 027 2484193 or email [manawastudio@gmail.com](mailto:manawastudio@gmail.com)



**carols  
on the  
lawn**

5pm - 7pm, Sunday 21st December  
Musselburgh Baptist Church

games, bbq and advent  
calendar trail to explore  
From 5pm  
6pm carols and children's  
play (bring a blanket to sit  
on)

**Free!**

Invite your friends and family to share in this Christmas celebration! Everyone is welcome to attend.

# Harbour Kids

School Holiday programme  
\$10 per hour with a daily cap of \$60

Rāvensbourne School      19-30 January, 2026      8:30am-5:30pm

EVERY DAY HAS CHILD CENTRED ACTIVITIES ORGANISED WITH A SPECIAL GUEST TIME SLOT.

Mon 19	Quiz Show
Tues 20	Sport
Wed 21	Live Music Science
Thurs 22	
Fri 23	talent show tech Day
Mon 26	
Tues 27	Art contest Mystery guest
Wed 28	
Thurs 29	Mystery guests and activities TBC
Fri 30	

to book please use this QR code and you will receive confirmation.





**THE INTERNATIONAL  
YOUTH INITIATIVE PROGRAM**

### What is YIP?

YIP is a 10 month residential societal entrepreneurship training that aims to strengthen young people's capacity to take initiative in the face of current global challenges. Based on the understanding that we live in an interconnected world, participants are supported to develop their fullest potential, expand their global and personal awareness and find their authentic task in society and the world.

**LOCATION: JÄRNA, SWEDEN**  
**DURATION: AUG 2026 - JUN 2027**

### Are you?

- ✓ Between 18 and 28 years old?
- ✓ Fluent in English?
- ✓ Looking for a holistic in-person education that empowers you?
- ✓ Willing to create positive shifts in yourself, others and the world?
- ✓ Seeking to be authentically yourself while being in service to the current global challenges?
- ✓ Keen to live, learn and work in community alongside international change makers?



### APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:**  
First round 28th FEB 2026  
Final round 29th MAY 2026

[WWW.YIP.SE](http://WWW.YIP.SE)  
[@YIPSWEDEN](https://www.instagram.com/yipsweden)  



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**Sunday at 8PM**

### **Sawyers Bay Christmas Carols Evening**

Dunedin Port Chalmers Rd, Sawyers Bay, Port Chalmers 9023, New Zealand

On Sunday the 14th of December, from 8 PM, we invite Sawyers Bay residents to listen out for Christmas bells announcing a community group singing Christmas carols. Open your windows, come to your door steps or step outside and follow us. We will walk and stop to sing in three locations around Sawyers Bay. Let us spread some Christmas cheers!