



He aha te mea nui o te ao? He tangata!
 He tangata! He tangata!

What is the most important thing in the world? It is people! It is people! It is people!



Class 1 2026 welcome arch

NEWSLETTER

2025 TERM 1

School

Rāhina/Monday 23 rd Mar	Otago Anniversary – public holiday
Rāapa/Wednesday 26 th Mar	5:30 – 7pm
Rāpare/Thursday 2 nd Apr	Saint Michael’s play

Kindergarten

Rāhina/Monday 23 rd Mar	Otago Anniversary – public holiday
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Governance

Rātū/Tuesday 10 th Feb	5:30pm Board meeting
Rātū/Tuesday 24 th Feb	5:30pm Proprietors meeting

Other

Rāhoroi/Saturday 14 th Feb	10:30-2pm Lunar FestivalCommunity Cooking
Rāhoroi/Saturday 28 th Feb	Community cooking
Rāpare/Thursday 19 th Mar	9:30am School tour
Rāpare/Thursday 19 th Mar	10:45am Kindergarten tour
Rātapu/Sunday 29 th Mar	11am to 2pm FAIR DAY

Playgroup	Rāhina/Mondays and Rāapa/Wednesdays	9:30 to 11:30 am
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Craftgroup	Rātū/Tuesday	9 to 11am
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Tēnā anō koe,

And what a start to the year 2026, a start with many welcomes; we welcome back all the staff, whānau and tamariki returning from a summer holiday, we welcome all the new families and children, who have joined our kindergarten, we welcome class 1 into the school and all new children and families into our kura – nau mai, haere mai!



Thank you to everyone who came to the working bee before the start of school; a lot of work got completed and the grounds looked ready for the children to return.

All of our tamariki have made a beautiful start to the year, they are full of energy, vibrancy and stories and have come back to do their best. Walking through the school I can see the children engaged in their learning, approaching everything with an open mind and an open heart – ready for whatever comes next.

At the end of this term we have our annual school fair and we look forward to a day that brings our community together and showcases who we are. There is plenty of work to be done so please make sure you get involved. Shortly, your class reps will be receiving information to share with all the parents, please respond promptly and engage as this will make everything run smoothly.

Also keep an eye on our school calendar on the school website for upcoming dates and events so you can plan accordingly.

We look forward to a fruitful and joyful year ahead!

Kā mihi,

Anna Noble

Tumuaki/Principal

Special Character Thoughts - Transitions

Transitions can be difficult; transitioning from a weekend back into the week, from a holiday back into work and from kindergarten into school or from home into the kindergarten. Transitions are also opening doors to something new and exciting; to new experiences, challenges and new relationships.

As the adults in our children's lives, we play a vital part in making transitions as comfortable and seamless as possible. A child might cling to their parent, even cry, as they are worried about the unknown. The child is leaving a person and a space, sometimes for the first time, to go into a space that is unknown for them, to people that are not familiar yet. However, as daunting as this sounds, there are many ways to help a child transition, and the most important part is the inner conviction and position the parent takes. This is work that can be done before the actual day a child starts in kindergarten or in school; children can meet teachers earlier, meet the other children outside of the new spaces so they already have relationships and familiar faces to look at the day they arrive.

Once the day of transition is here, it is of utmost importance for a parent to be conscious of how the transition happens. The inner and outer conviction of the parent is paramount: 'I have made a conscious choice for my child to come to this place and I trust the adults and the environment with the care of my child'. The child will feel this as they are being received by the new adults in their lives.

A short practical list for transition time:

- Have a short and loving ritual for when you leave, once completed, don't stop to talk to other adults or the teacher.
- Allow the child to say goodbye quickly, don't let your emotions guide what you expect your child to do.
- Physically hand over the child to the teacher, this allows the teacher to receive the child and is a gesture of trust for your child.
- Allow the teacher to redirect your child's attention, it is helpful in a transition if the child knows what will come next.

Children go through phases, some days they might be happy to see you go, on other days they are not. Sometimes even the bigger children go through a phase in which they don't want to see a parent go; this is very normal and just means going back to intentional transitions, usually just for a short while. This will help the child to reconfirm: 'nothing has changed, this is still the place we want you to be'.

Items looking for new homes.

There are two clearlight covered metal frame doors that are available to the highest bidder! Let the office know by Monday 16th if you are interested in one or two and what you would pay.



There are also old school desks - wooden with metal legs. Please let the office know if you would like one - and perhaps a small chair to go with it. Koha appreciated.



After school care

For the last couple of years we have run a small OSCAR accredited after school care programme. This has been appreciated by a number of whānau over that time. However, it never reached the stage of being financially viable, and with a decrease in enrolments in 2026 the hard decision was made to close it at the end of February. We would like to thank all the staff who have worked at it, including our relievers who stepped in. Your care for our tamariki has been much appreciated. And if the demand for this kind of care develops again, we are open to running it again.

Transport Help

It is possible that you may be eligible for some help with transport costs - if you have a 5+ year old here and live a certain distance away that is not on a bus route. This is a payment from the Ministry of Education. If you are eligible, you can apply here:

<https://parents.education.govt.nz/primary-school/your-child-at-school/school-transport-assistance/>

Road Safety

We would like to ask caregivers to please drive slowly around the school at all times. We encourage families to consider parking down at Maia and walking up the track on icy days. If driving up, consider parking on Isabel Road (a right hand off Manapouri as you come up to the school. This would ease congestion. We also would like to congratulate all those who walk up the hill from the Maia bus stop - what a healthy way to start the day! Please do not park on the yellow lines or the school driveways.

SCHOOL – MEET OUR NEW STAFF MEMBERS

Judith Alcántara – Class Kiokio teacher

Kia ora e te whānau,

My name is Judith, and I am grateful to be joining the school as the class teacher of Class 2–3, Kiokio Class. I am new to the school and have recently moved to Dunedin after living in Hawke's Bay for the past eleven years.

My journey with Steiner education in Aotearoa began in 2014, where I worked as a kindergarten teacher. Since then, my path has continued to unfold alongside my work in primary education, deepening my understanding of child development and shaping the way I teach and learn within a Steiner context.



I feel honoured to now bring this experience into Kiokio Class and to walk alongside your tamariki with care, curiosity, and a commitment to ongoing learning.

Ngā mihi mahana, *Judith*

Katie Williams – Class Kea kaiako



Kia ora e te whānau. I am so excited to join the school community as the new teacher of Kea. My name is Katie and I have just returned to Dunedin after spending the last 7 years in the UK with my husband. I am English born but grew up in Nelson before coming to Dunedin as a Scarfie to study theatre and art history. After my degree, I travelled and worked as an actress and youth theatre director. Within this period, I found a passion to use creative arts as a tool to engage and develop essential skills in young people - this in turn led me to retrain as a primary school teacher (again in Dunedin!). Having worked within the limitations of mainstream education, Steiner is a breath of fresh air and I look forward to seeing how we grow as a class and school.

In my spare time you will find me at the beach or in the bush. It's so good to be back in Aoteroa! I love growing and arranging cut flowers and used to compete in coastal gig racing in the south of England. I can't wait to get back on the water!

Korina Ellis – Kapa haka kaiako

Anei tāku mihi ki koutou katoa. E te hāpori o te kura nei, ko Dunedin Rudolf Steiner. Ko au te Kaiako Māori. He uri nō Pātea au. Ko Ngāti Ruanui, Ngā Rauru, Ngāruahine, Te Pakakohi ōku iwi, ko Manutahi, Wai-o-Turi, Pariroa, Wharepuni ngā marae. Ko Turi te tangata, ko Aotea te waka, ko Pātea te awa, ko Taranaki te mounga, ko Korina Ellison taku ingoa. Tokorua aku tama, ko Eli rāua ko Lucca (te pikitia). Ko Sam taku hoa rangatira, a, ko Jimmy tā mātou ngeru.

Nō reira, mena ka kitea e koe ki ahau kōrero mai.

I'm excited to join this kura and be part of the learning of our ākonga.



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Molly Meehan – Teacher aid

Kia Ora, my name is Molly Meehan. I'm a Dunedin local with a deep love for the beautiful landscapes and coastlines that Ōtepoti has to offer. I have worked within education and social services for many years and am passionate about creating supportive environments where rangatahi feel free to express themselves and grow their curiosity. I'm very excited to be starting my journey at Dunedin Rudolf Steiner School and look forward to supporting the growth of the Steiner community.



Ngā mihi nui, *Molly Meehan*

KINDERGARTEN

Nau mai, haere mai, a very warm welcome to the New Year at kindergarten. It has been lovely to have the children back filling up the garden and rooms with their play and energy. It is so nice to start the year with many new families and younger siblings joining us. A very warm welcome to Ivar, Leo, Zinnia, Brigette and their whānau who have joined the Koru room, Siro, Sway, Indie and Oscar and their whānau who have joined the Kōwhai room and Jai, Louise and Luka and their whānau who have joined the Rata room.

Thank you to all the kindergarten families that came to our working bee and helped to prepare our garden and outside furniture for the Term. It was a lovely way to start the year together and meet some of our new families. Our māra is looking lush and abundant with plenty of apples and pears on the trees and vegetables in the garden. It is feeling very Autumnal in the mornings and evenings already and it is really appreciated that all the children have arrived organised with all of their outside gear so we can play outside in most weathers.



From February 23rd - 25th we will be joined by ERO (Education Review Office). Their routine visits every few years provide outside evaluation of our service and the

opportunity for us to reflect on our professional practices as a team. They may do some discreet observations in the kindergarten rooms but will largely be focused on our documentation, so will be based in the kindergarten office.

Warmly, *The Kindy Kaiako*

PLAYGROUP

Miriam Marler is facilitating our playgroup sessions on Mondays and Wednesday sessions. The sessions run from 9:30 to 11:30am. You can contact playgroup emailing playgroup@dunedinsteiner.nz

CRAFTGROUP

Hi all, our annual school fair is just around the corner and we would love your help!! If you have some spare time, please join us at our Tuesday meetings after drop-off. We've got plenty of tasks for every skill level. Alternatively, grab some crafting kits from the office and get creative at home (We will prepare them over the weekend so should be ready by the beginning of the week)! 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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ORBUS: Bus fares are \$1.50 for children and youth aged from 5 to 18 with a registered Bee Card, for a single trip. They will need to top up their Bee Card. The cash fare is \$3. You may also like to follow Orbus on Facebook www.facebook.com/OrbusDN or subscribe to our newsletter www.orc.govt.nz/public-transport/on-board-with-orbus-newsletter to get ongoing bus information.

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The Regent Theatre 24-Hour Book Sale is back! Friday 20 Feb (starts 12pm) – Saturday 21 Feb
Where: Breeze Arena, Edgar Centre.10am-10pm, at the Breeze Arena, Edgar Centre for thousands of bargain books, games, puzzles and much more. Need to clear your shelves? We are also gratefully accepting book donations at BP Mornington, Kaikorai Valley Storage, and the Regent Box Office. For specific drop-off times and further event details, please visit: <https://www.regenttheatre.co.nz/project/regent-24-hour-book-sale-2026/>

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The Dunedin Children's Choir 2026: The Dunedin Children's Choir offers a welcoming, supportive, and high-quality choral music programme for young people across Dunedin. Choir is open to all children and young people aged 7–16, and families are warmly invited to book a **free trial session**.
Our choirs for 2026 are: Junior Choir (ages 7–10) Wednesdays, 3.45–4.45pm; Senior Choir (ages 11–16) Wednesdays, 5.00–6.30pm; Lower Voices Choir (ages 11–16), For singers with changing or lower **voices** Fridays, 4.30–5.30pm. Rehearsals are held at St John's Church Hall, Roslyn \$40 per term / \$160 per year. We invite new singers to attend a **FREE trial rehearsal** to get a feel for choir before committing. Junior & Senior Choir: Wednesdays 18 & 25 February, Lower Voices Choir: Fridays 20 & 27 February
To reserve a place at a trial session, please email dunedinchildrenschoir@gmail.com.

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Basketball: Girls Got Game: A fun and welcoming programme designed just for girls in Y4-8 to build skills, confidence and friendships through basketball. It's the perfect way to get active, learn the game and enjoy being part of a supportive environment. Females in Y4-8 \$50 for 5 weeks Begins Sun 1 Mar 9:00am to 10:00am <https://membership.mygameday.app/regofrm.cgi?formID=120136>

BNZ Kiwi Hoops: The ideal introduction to basketball for children in Y1-6! Across six weeks, kids will learn the FUNdamentals in a setting that focuses on games-based activities, movement and enjoyment of the game. Children in Y1-6 \$50 for 5 weeks Begins Sun 1 Mar 9:00am to 10:00am
<https://membership.mygameday.app/regofrm.cgi?formID=120135>

Dash & Splash

1PM, SUNDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2026
 PORT CHALMERS SWIM CLUB

5-6 years: Run 800m & Swim 20m (2 widths)
 7-9 years: Run 800m & Swim 40m (4 widths)
 10-11 years: Run 1.5km & Swim 60m (2 lengths)
 12-14 years: Run 2km & Swim 150m (5 lengths)



Scan QR code to register online or go to:
bit.ly/2026dashandsplash
 Keep updated on FB: /portchalmersswimclub



Back to School

2026 School Update Dunedin Area

Kia ora koutou! Wishing everyone a smooth start to Term One and the school year! The Community Oral Health Service provides free dental care until age 18 and our team is here to support your school community - below are some key updates for the year ahead.



Local Community Clinics:

- South Dunedin - 225 Macandrew Rd; Ph: 455 9279
- Mosgiel - 19 Green St; Ph: 489 3480



Mobile Dental Units:

- Wakari Hospital - 369 Taieri Rd; Ph: 027 284 9914
 *From 7 January - 23 December
- Abbotsford - 72 North Taieri Rd; Ph: 027 284 9754
 *From 6 July - 6 November
- Port Chalmers - 30A Albertson Ave; Ph: 027 284 9954
 *From 13 July - 1 October



Keep an eye out for the two handy oral health tips we'll send out each term, for your school to share via newsletters or social media



*Dates subject to change
 For appointments outside these dates please call
0800 672 543

Health New Zealand
 Te Whatu Ora

Community Oral
 Health Service



Talkteeth Southern

I'm Colleen Robb. I'm a Meditation Instructor with over 25 years' experience. I have been running an outreach program in Dunedin since 2020. Our classes are donation based, with the aim to bring inner education, self-knowledge to all. We have a progressive approach, commencing with a 10-week fundamentals program. Currently we promote new intakes in February, May and September. Our next opening begins Monday 9th of February. As you know 'Health and Wellbeing', mental stability and spiritual growth are essential in personal development. Community, togetherness, giving and receiving is natural, and spreading the word and awareness is the precursor to change. I have enclosed my contact details in the form of a flyer, which you can easily pass on to your contacts and interested parties. Kind regards, Colleen Robb
 Meditation Instructor, 021-0228-7258

STEINER SCHOOL FAIR

Activities, Raffle, Games, Marionette play, Musical forest, Crafts, Second hand clothes, and much more...

Sunday 29 March 2026
11am - 2pm

Come and enjoy our grounds! 1 Fern Road, Maia, Dunedin

www.dunedinsteiner.nz office@dunedinsteiner.nz 03 471 2163