



Something new is mounting, growing  
Deep within me, outward surging.  
Seed is ripening, sap is flowing;  
Power streaming, light emerging.

Fire-spirits sparkle round me, warmth  
and will-bestowing:  
"Sing our fiery song of summer  
strength!" I hear them urging.

Michael Hedley Burton



Class 7 in action

## NEWSLETTER

### DIARY OF DATES

Thursday 21 <sup>th</sup> Feb	6:30 pm BoT meeting
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> Feb	2 pm Kindy Open day for prospective parents
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	7 pm Proprietors meeting
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	6 pm Kindergarten Parent evening
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> April	Kindergarten Harvest Festival

### PLAYGROUP TIMES

Mondays 10 to 12 pm	Mixed age children - Pine Hill
Wednesdays 10 to 12 pm	Mixed age children - Pine Hill
Fridays 10 to 12 pm	Te Reo Maori - Mixed age children - Pine Hill

Kia ora koutou,

When I looked ahead to the year 2019 after agreeing to be Acting Principal, I thought it looked quite straight forward in spite of warnings to the contrary.

Now we are in 2019. As teachers, we are meeting our tasks in the classroom with fresh energy and I am delighted to be working together with such a committed group.

The children all seem fresh, fit, and healthy. When I visit classrooms, I witness a very harmonious atmosphere, with students working together in groups or in lessons with the teacher.

And then there's the view!

It feels like a great little school.

Saturday, the group of parents who have made a huge extra commitment to the school by taking up a role on the Proprietors Trust or Board of Trustees, demonstrated this gift of time and energy at the Joint Meeting as we "ploughed" through the Strategic plan, noting what is achieved from last year and what lies ahead, yet to do or new into the plan.

As we submit the forms and adopt the procedures necessary as a State funded school, one realises how important it is to keep alive and visible, our Special Character as well as to adopt the processes and procedures required of us.

One thing that is at the heart of our focus or vision is to enable the growth and expansion of a vibrant Parent Body. The working bee days are always an experience of this; however many turn up and no matter what the weather, it is a community experience.

The festivals are another example of community coming together.

In the schools I have formerly been at there has been, in place, another role which enhances the life of the school particularly in the social realm. This is the role of Class Parent/s in the class.

While one could see it as simply a person to ring/ email around for the teacher, make the cups of tea at a Parents' evening and get the Fair roster going, I have seen how this support to the teacher can take on more of a creative engagement and how the Parent Reps can become a circle in themselves, who carry the social impulse and have an invaluable role to play in the life of the school.

I have talked with the College of Teachers and we are keen to explore the scope of this idea, sharing it with Parents at our Parent Evenings and starting to identify what it can mean here in DRSS.

I am aware that teachers receive a lot of help and support from parents already and a huge thank you for your ongoing contributions. If the role is more defined, over time we can perhaps enhance what happens already.

Enjoy the dwindling summer days and beautiful sunrises. Is it just that they happen later in the morning so that we see them, or are they a Dunedin Autumn special?

Please remember I am available on Tuesdays and Wednesdays if you have something to discuss. Or just to pop in and say hello.

*Pene*

## **Drive Carefully Please**

Please drive responsibly around the school. We have received a complaint from a local family about the speed at which parents are driving. Thanks

## **Pledge Reminder**

Thank you to everyone who has returned their pledge form for their parental contributions to the school. Please ensure yours comes back too. The Proprietors Trust needs responses from all and expects that all families will contribute. We will assume that families who do not get back to us, have agreed to the suggested amount.

## **Casual relievers for the Kindergarten**

Our kindergarten is looking for people available for casual relieving. Please contact Julie for more details or to register your interest.

## **Summary of the Joint Meeting on 16 February**

On Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> the members of the Board of Trustees, Management team, Proprietors, teachers and staff of the school met for the first of the two planned Joint meetings we have each year.

The purpose of the February Joint meeting is to consider, adapt and adopt the Strategic plan of the school for the next 3 years. The strategic plan encompasses all aspects of the life of the school:



- the education/ delivery of the curriculum, striving for excellence
- growing and maintaining the school roll
- building community
- building programme for the school
- Governance and Management.

The group reconsiders the forecasted 3 year plan in view of what has been achieved in the last year and considers new goals to be added.

While a lot has been achieved, there is still a lot to be done.

The Strategic plan will be edited and revised according to the outcomes of the meeting and will be submitted as part of the Charter to the Ministry by the end of February.

It is good to look at the school in this wider frame of reference rather than in the daily weekly “business as usual”.

The Charter will be published and available to read once published after Ministry approval in March.

Many thanks to all the willing parents and friends who contributed to this process. Special thanks to Danny Fridberg, who steered us through the challenging unravelling to come to identifying goals, aims, tasks, targets and time frames in what was a good positive meeting. *Pene Johnstone*

## **SCHOOL NEWS – Class 7**

Welcome to Class 7- the new senior class in the school.



After a 6 year journey with the class of one year older pupils, class 7 are now a standalone group. Small is beautiful and that applies to us.

Fynn, Solomon, Seda, Tom and Alice are spending their graduation year in the Forest classroom enjoying being adjacent to the forest which is not only a play space but also an extension of the classroom.

Debbie Boulton takes the class for 2 days a week and during this time the class will be doing clearing, landscaping, plant identification and propagation of native species with some survival skills training thrown in.



This is perfect for this group, most of whom have covered a lot of the class 7 curriculum in the previous year so we have flexibility to adapt a programme highly suited to them.

It is my task as class teacher to deepen and expand their work on the curriculum and address specific subject areas and skills that need practice and strengthening.

The class is in good heart, enjoying their chance to expand and steadily growing into their identity as the senior pupils in the school. *Pene Johnstone*

## **Class 5 & 6**

Our class 5 and 6 are very happy to receive two chest of drawers made by a wonderful local craftsman, Colin, and funded by the craft group. This helps with

some of their storage issues in the yurt. Many thanks to the craft group for their funding!



## KINDERGARTEN NEWS

Dear Whanau,

We are off to a great settled start to the year! Welcome to Ra Dingemans, Matai Gillis, Yuval Kidron, Aurie Cummings, Ezra Putu-Grimsey, Jake Thompson-Keating, Luca Rocco-Nikkel, Alma Blass and Kowhai Robles-Smith in the Kowhai and Rata rooms. Also a huge welcome to Aleisha Hutchinson in the Kowhai room.

We are thrilled to have opened the Koru room at last, and Junko and Alida have welcomed Isi McCurdy, Evie Brundt, Raphael Mallhanak, Rowan Martin-Bulfin, Alina Gillis, Joseph Salem, Emma Paul and Pi Harrison.

The tuakana have begun their sword making in anticipation of the Harvest festival and the Michaelic spirit of the term (courage, overcoming obstacles and striving for what is good and right). Like last year, we are using rasps and files to make these – we acknowledge some of you may be disappointed that we are not using whittling knives, but the safety aspect had to come first. We will review the place of whittling knives in the kindergarten.

With our large tuakana group this year, if anyone has any old rasps or files in good condition we would happily make use of them.

Do you listen to podcasts? We highly recommend you check out the Simplicity Parenting podcasts (Which link to the excellent book of the same name) by Kim John Payne. These short (10-minute) gems into ways to positively support children come out weekly. You can find them at: <https://www.simplicityparenting.com/>, [itunes](#), or wherever you get your podcasts.



Your Kindy Teachers, *Juile, Kate, Sandra, Aelisha, Junko and Alida.*

P.S. Please keep cartoon clothing for the weekends, if you find your child's t-shirt turned inside out, this is why. We are occasionally required to find creative ways to make sure our clothing policy is implemented in the kindergarten.

Our new visitor to Kowhai room.  
A big thank you to Susie

## **PLAYGROUP**

It has been lovely having our Pinehill space enjoyed by more children and parents now all our sessions have moved up there. It is a beautiful space already set up for playgroup each week, we have been enjoying the sunny days so far this term and the increased outdoor space which has been expanded to meet the needs of both playgroup and our wonderful friends at Aurora Tamariki next door.

All our playgroup sessions are now at Pinehill for mixed age groups on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10 - 12.

For any further information about any of our playgroups please feel free to get in touch at [dunedinsteinerplaygroup@gmail.com](mailto:dunedinsteinerplaygroup@gmail.com).

*Bex and Alida*

## **CRAFT GROUP**

Honey is now available in the craft shop.

Craft shop purchases generate funds that can be used for school projects, in the past, this has included the planting of fruit trees and this year funds have gone towards beautiful new storage units for the yurt classroom.

Please make craft shop purchase payments in cash in the box in the drawer and note down your name, the date and what was purchased along with the total to pay. Payments can also be made online to the Rudolf Steiner School Trust Otago account 03-1726-0004961-05.

If you have previously made payments to a 00 suffix account please now change this on your saved account numbers as we wish to close this account.

We have a receipt form that you can fill in if you are paying online

Many Thanks *Sharyn* [sharyn285@gmail.com](mailto:sharyn285@gmail.com).

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## 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.**

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**Harbourside Junior Football Club:** Registrations are now open and will close on Sunday March the 10. Contact either **Tim Cook** on 4728024 (email [timrcc@yahoo.co.nz](mailto:timrcc@yahoo.co.nz)) or **Ian Landreth** (email [ian\\_landreth@yahoo.com](mailto:ian_landreth@yahoo.com)) on 4728381 to register or for further information.

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**Tennis Otago:** 2019 Otago Junior Open – enter now for Otago’s premier Tier 3 junior tennis tournament! Online entry only – click on the following link: <http://bit.ly/2019OtagoJuniorOpen> Phone: 021 02577898

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**From The Rites of Passage Foundation in Golden Bay:** The long-awaited Rising Tides! A new weekend event for 9-11-year-old girls and their mothers. Happening February 22-24 2019. Open fires, stary skies, having fun, doing craft, camping together and sharing stories with other girls and mums. Treasured and focused time together to celebrate your relationship and revel in the delight of your daughter - a girl on the threshold of unfolding...Register at [www.tides.net.nz](http://www.tides.net.nz). If you have any questions, please contact Gabby Hollis at 027 275 4327.

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**Dunedin Southern Children’s Choir:** Have fun with friends singing a variety of music genres under the tutelage of professional musicians. Children aged 9 to 13 years welcome to join now. Email [southernchildrenschoir@gmail.com](mailto:southernchildrenschoir@gmail.com) for details.

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Parent Help is a non-profit organisation **supporting parents** to build resilient and positive families/whānau. We run a free confidential **parenting Helpline** for parents and caregivers. The Helpline is available from 9am – 9pm, 7 days a week, providing advice, support and practical strategies on any parenting concern.

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**Home available for the month of April:** Subletting out house in Maia for the duration of April. There are 3 bedrooms, 2 spacious lounges and a large back yard. Fully furnished and equipped.

Rent is \$320 per week, includes WIFI, but not electricity.

For this low price, we will ask to look after our chickens and cat, and water our veggie patch. Please contact us [dfridberg1@gmail.com](mailto:dfridberg1@gmail.com) if you are interested.

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