



Can I expand my soul,  
 So she allies herself  
 With cosmic Seed-Word now  
 conceived?  
 I feel that I must find the strength  
 To give my soul a worthy form,  
 To mold itself to Spirit garment.

Rudolf Steiner (translation by Daisy Aldan)



## NEWSLETTER

### 2025 TERM 1

#### School

Rātū/Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> Mar	9:30am School Tour
Rāmere/Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> Mar	Teachers only day – school closed, kindy open
Rāhina/Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Otago Anniversary – public holiday
Rāapa/Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> Mar	5:30 – 7pm Parent experience Evening – Morning circle older classes
Rāmere/Friday 11 <sup>st</sup> Apr	Saint Michael’s play

#### Kindergarten

Rātū/Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> Mar	12pm Kindergarten Open Afternoon
Rāhina/Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Otago Anniversary – public holiday

#### Governance

Rātū/Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> Feb	5:30pm Proprietors meeting
Rātū/Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> Mar	5:30pm Board meeting

#### Other

Rātapu/Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> May (Term 2)	11am to 2pm <b>FAIR DAY</b>
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#### Playgroup

Rāhina/Mondays and Rōapa/Wednesdays	9:30 to 11:30 am
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Kia ora e te whānau,

The school and kindergarten are full of life, full of learning and full of community. It has been so lovely to see families gathering around Te Puna Waiora, enjoying the sunshine and the company.

We are entering into fair season and this year it will look slightly different to the previous years: each class/kindergarten will be in charge of one area of the fair and I would like to thank the parent reps who have already put their hands up to help organise their class/kindergarten community. We will still send out general request as well (first ones below) but please keep an eye out for emails from the representatives of your area.

Kindergarten and Playgroup - Cafē/food

Kiokio- Crafts

Kākāpō- Marketing, stalls, tokens

Kea- Games

Kererū- Pizza

### **General requests:**

- **STALLS:** If you know anyone who might be interested in having a stall at our fair, please ask them to get in touch.
- **RAFFLE prizes:** please use your contacts to ask if they are happy to give raffle prizes to us. Please do so asap so we can finalise the raffle in the next two weeks.

We are looking forward to a great fair and as always, if you have any questions, please get in touch.

Mā te wa,

Anna Noble

Tumuaki/Principal

## **Special Character Thoughts**

As a College, we have started to visit, or for some of us, revisit the 12 senses and how we work with them. We first looked at touch, a sense that is quite commonly known and referred to in various other frameworks of understanding the world. However, Steiner looks at the touch as one of our coarser senses, one that allows us to literally bump into the world around us but has less to do with our daily soul life. As this is a sense that does not penetrate the soul life he therefore refers to touch as being an

unconscious sense. When you think about our memory and how memory allows us to recall many sensory impressions, touch is not one that is stored in our memories, recalling how something felt, 're-feeling' it in our minds is just about impossible to do.

For the child in kindergarten it is a way of separating themselves from the others, a way to find themselves and understand where they finish and something else or someone else starts: when I touch something it shows where my physical being finishes and where something or someone else begins. That process being a precursor for compassion to others. If I can separate between myself and others, only then can I start to feel for them and with them.

The sense of touch (connected to many other senses that we will cover later) is another reason for the materials we surround the children with. In College we touched different materials to see what our reaction to them would be. Interestingly enough, touching a piece of wood, the sensation can be that of softness but also hardness, when touching plastic there was a much less of a sensory response.

The interconnectedness of the 12 senses will be part of our exploration going forward and I look forward to sharing this with our community.

Noho ora mai, Anna Noble Tumuaki/Principal

## **Our Resources - The Financial Reality**

Thanks to everyone who completed the 2025 pledge form – there are only a very few people who have still to do so. This is an important document for us, as it confirms your commitment to our special character Steiner education, and it also allows us to see if the school and kindergarten has sufficient income to meet our budget. Thank you all for your pledges.

Our kindergarten reduced to 2 rooms from the start of 2025 and we hope that enrolments will allow the third room to open this year. Our Ministry funding for kindergarten is based on the number of hours that children attend (and their age), and this is the most significant income stream for kindergarten.

The school asks the whole community to hold responsibility for the material life – including the financial life - of school and kindergarten. Where there is genuine need we always seek to find a way for all tamariki to attend and we trust to the goodwill and desire for equity in everyone to allow this to happen.

Please get in touch with me by phone, in person or email [admin@dunedinsteiner.nz](mailto:admin@dunedinsteiner.nz) if you have any questions or suggestions. Kā mihi, Clare.

# Finance policy consultation

There are two amendments to existing policies. Please see our website and respond with any questions or suggestions by 9am Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February. The changes are increasing the level at which 3 quotes are required for purchases, and around how budgets can be carried forward from one year to the next.

Please have a look at our policies on the website.

<https://www.dunedinsteiner.nz/school-policies-and-procedures.html>

## SCHOOL – CLASS KĀKĀPŌ

Kia ora koutou,

Class Kākāpō has moved from the lower end of the school into the middle part. This has brought some changes to how the class, and the classroom, operates. We have shifted from low sit-on-the-ground benches to smaller tables and chairs. Some parents in the class have mentioned that the kids are feeling more mature with seats and tables and are putting in more effort as a result - possibly, but I do know that the class has taken the change in their stride and are enjoying their learning and working consistently at set tasks.



The other big change is to our reading programme. Now that almost all the class are

capable readers, the class-wide focus has shifted from learning to read to enjoying a wide range of reading experiences. To facilitate this, we have started a new literacy programme based on reading stations. Each 'station' has several





activity choices which, when combined over several days, includes a wide variety of reading experiences.



Until next time,

*James*

## A Note from class Kererū

Tenā koutou Steiner whānau,

As you probably already know, Class Kererū are running fun lunchtime activities for your children, and we are requesting some donations or loans of board games that would be suitable for 6 to 13 year olds.

We would be happy with any board games but there are a few that we suggest: **"Banana Grams"**, which is good for literacy; **"Who Am I"** or **"Head Bands"**: or **"Guess Who"**, which will be fun for the younger children; **"Taco, Cat, Goat, Cheese, Pizza"** or **"Battle Ships"**, which is also a fun and quirky game that improves teamwork; **"Kids Know Best"** for improving general knowledge.

Just in case anyone has gymnastic equipment in their basement gathering spiderwebs, we would also love to borrow a beam, gym mats, tumble track or anything else you may think the children would enjoy for gym activities.

Thank you for your support and we look forward to our activities equipment collection for all of us to enjoy.

Kia pai te rā, *Class Kererū*

## KINDERGARTEN

Kia ora whānau,

The tamariki are gaining a great sense of belonging being back at kindy and are making stronger connections with their peers, kaiako and their classroom. Through free play the tamariki develop connections to the people, places and things in their world. Relationships develop over time and through interactions with others. Our korero, stories, purakau, waiata and homelike environment deepen these experiences.



The tamariki also have a strong sense of well-being by keeping themselves healthy and caring for themselves/te oranga nui. At kindy, the children are supported and encouraged to take increasing rakatirataka of their own health and self-care. Skills include correct hand-washing, toileting and positive eating habits as part of our daily rhythm.

The tamariki have been enjoying looking at the wonderful flowers in the mara and helping trim back the willow hut.

*The Kindy Kaiako*

## PLAYGROUP

Dear Playgroup Community,

We have had a lovely start to the year, quickly getting back into the swing of things with lots of returning regulars and a few new faces. Jenny Wigley has been back facilitating our Wednesday sessions and I have been there on Mondays.

We do still have a little space for more families to join us so if you know anyone with a little one who you think might enjoy our social, play based sessions do invite them please.

Late last year we were awarded a Special Grant from the Ministry of Education for providing shelter in our outdoor play space. This includes a few thousand dollars towards a small wharenuī



play hut and a bench seat. If you are a carpenter interested in working with us to fulfill our vision for this project, please contact us. It would be ideal to complete this by the winter.

Arohanui, Alida [playgroup@dunedinsteiner.nz](mailto:playgroup@dunedinsteiner.nz)

## CRAFTGROUP

If you enjoy a chat while doing some hand work come and join our group. This term we will be meeting every Tuesday from 9 to 11am in the playgroup room. Join us!

## 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.**

**COMPOST, BOKASHI & WORM FARMING WORKSHOP**

**SUNDAY 2 MARCH | 1 – 5PM | SAWYERS BAY**

Turn your food and garden wastes into amazing compost. Join Michelle Ritchie for a balance of theory and hands-on content: build a compost heap, use a Bokashi Food CompostZing System and learn how to run your own Worm Farm.

Turn your organic wastes into a nutrient rich resource for your garden, save money and help the environment, all at the same time!

**FREE | Afternoon tea and notes provided**

**Registration essential by 27 February:** Michelle Ritchie, 029 771 0212  
[www.organicsunearthed.com/workshops](http://www.organicsunearthed.com/workshops)

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**Back to School** **2025 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 6 January - 19 December
- Middlemarch - 33 Swansea St; Ph: 027 284 9751  
\*From 31 March - 11 April
- Abbotsford - 72 North Taieri Rd; Ph: 027 284 9754  
\*From 7 July - 7 November
- Port Chalmers - 30A Albertson Ave; Ph: 027 284 9954  
\*From 11 August - 10 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


Scan this code for more great tooth tips

**Community consultation on the disability services** review is underway from today (10<sup>th</sup>) until the 24<sup>th</sup> of February. As part of this there will be four autistic focused community sessions. We are looking for participants to attend these sessions. See information below. Below is a video of Chris Bunny explaining more about the consultation:- <https://youtu.be/zcqheket4Yk> More info on the consultation content is on this page on the DSS website: [Discussion document to support consultation | Disability Support Services](#)

**Taruna College** is delighted to be offering two workshops:  
**Supportive Therapies Workshop** commences 7<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> March and is ideal for nurses, therapists, caregivers and parents. The days focus on an understanding of care and strategies to help in times of anxiety and stress, and includes a range of healing plants and external treatments within an anthroposophical framework. For more information go to Taruna's website <https://www.taruna.ac.nz/courses-and-workshops/therapies-for-care-and-recovery/>

**The Art of Morning Circle commences** 27th - 29th March and is ideal for teachers, teacher aides, playgroup facilitators and homeschoolers. This workshop looks at how the morning circle complements the main lesson; creating structure of the circle for rhythm and healthy breathing; exploring techniques for holding social space; creating ritual and reverence; and practical activities including: speech; music; singing; games and other activities. For more information go to Taruna's website <https://www.taruna.ac.nz/the-art-of-morning-circle/>

# Motoko Watanabe



6th January-28th February  
St PAUL'S CATHEDRAL  
10:00am-3:00pm Mon-Sat

## Dash & Splash

1PM, SUNDAY 9 MARCH 2025  
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 90m (3 lengths)  
12-14 years: Run 2km & Swim 150m (5 lengths)



Scan QR code to register online or go to:

<https://forms.gle/hZieP5y6KnKdzyXA7>

Keep updated on FB: /portchalmersswimclub



### Peace Talks: Support for Parents through Nonviolent Communication (NVC)



Jorinde Rapsey & Sally Prebble PhD

[www.peacetalks.nz](http://www.peacetalks.nz)

Hello! My name is Jorinde (mother of two teens), fortunate to experience Waldorf education until adulthood. As a young parent, I enjoyed facilitating Steiner playgroups, and for the past eight years, I've delved deeply into Nonviolent Communication (NVC), a practice that nurtures self-awareness, compassion, and deepens relationships. Together with my friend and colleague, Sally Prebble, we founded *Peace Talks* in 2022 to share NVC with parents. We believe it's an incredibly powerful tool for deepening connections, managing conflict with empathy and honesty, and creating more meaning in life. If you're feeling challenged or overwhelmed by the daily struggles of parenting, we'd love to offer support. Or, if you're simply curious and want to discover communication tools to enliven and deepen your relationships, visit our website or get in touch to learn more about upcoming workshops or free introductory resources. We'd love to help you navigate parenting with compassion and connection! [www.peacetalks.nz](http://www.peacetalks.nz) | 027 694 57 50