



“Ka ū mai te hā o te haukū, ka ao te rangi.”

As the dew arrives and gives its breath, the sky becomes worldly.



Class Kiokio lunch time reading club

## NEWSLETTER

### 2025 TERM 1

#### School

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

#### Kindergarten

Rāhina/Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Otago Anniversary – public holiday
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#### Governance

Rātū/Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	5:30pm Board meeting
Rātū/Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	5:30pm Proprietors meeting

#### Other

Rāhoroi/Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	Community cooking- <b>cancelled</b>
Rāpare/Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> Mar	9:30am School tour
Rāpare/Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	10:45am Kindergarten tour
Rātapu/Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	11am to 2pm <b>FAIR DAY</b>

<b>Playgroup</b>	Rāhina/Mondays and Rāapa/Wednesdays	9:30 to 11:30 am
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<b>Craftgroup</b>	Rātū/Tuesday	9 to 11am
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Kia ora koutou,

We are already in week 4 of this very short 9 week term and the days seem to be racing by! The children are well settled into their new classrooms, with their teachers and into their work – it is lovely to walk around to see, hear and feel the children being in their experience of learning, in school as well as in the kindergarten!

This also means that it is a very short month until our school fair. We hope that your class/kindergarten reps have been in touch with you to give you an idea of your contribution to this very special community day. This will not happen without everybody doing their part and we thank you in advance for your work!

We are also looking for new members on the Proprietors Trust – please read more information about this below!

Nāku, nā *Anna Noble* -Tumuaki/Principal

## **Special Character Thoughts: Good Morning!**

In the parent meetings there have been conversations about punctuality and ensuring that your child is in school on time to start the day with their class. While the teachers await each child's arrival in the morning, parents are tasked with creating a morning that allows the child to come to school ready to be welcomed into a day of learning. Here are some more practical tips and ideas of consciousness, that might help to start the day with a calm and warm morning:

- Be prepared! Think about what you can do the night before. What can be done to declutter the morning to allow for an unhurried and warm morning environment?
- Wake up before your children, take a few moments to inwardly prepare yourself for what you need to do next. Inwardly accept, that the child is the focus of the morning.
- Lead the morning with a positive mood and welcome your child into the day with warmth and calm. Model for your child, what you want them to do (e.g. get dressed, have breakfast) and be nearby and present, with an ear sharpened towards the child drifting away from their task or conflict/frustrations occurring.
- Avoid distractions like checking the news, phone calls, emails or texts.
- Work with the energy the child brings in the morning and move them away from the realm of sleep. Avoid reading a book in bed or cuddle corners – these are lovely special moments to save for the weekends but are often not helpful during the week as the child will be staying too close to their sleep comfort rather than waking up.
- Make a 'this before that' rule, e.g. get dressed first and then come out of the room, teeth need to be done, hair brushed before a play with the cat etc.

- Try to have breakfast with the children and be fully present in this moment, modelling good habits.
- Ensure there is enough time to transition from home to the way to school. Many children respond well to knowing how much time is left before you are leaving the house (age dependent).
- If you can, walk or bike to school, make an effort to do this, as this connects the children with the outside world and awakens their senses and connection with and curiosity about the world.
- Once you have arrived on the weekend; relax the focus and allow a breathing out, without breaking the routine fully, in particular for younger children.

The preparation and consciousness of the adult in the morning will make a big difference to the waking up of your child, regardless of whether your child is slower in their transition from sleep into the day or full of energy the moment they open their eyes.

For more on this topic, please look at: <https://www.seanz.org/blog/good-morning>

*Anna Noble* -Tumuaki/Principal

## **Join the Proprietors Trust**

The Proprietors Trust is looking for new members! The Proprietors Trust is made up of community members like you, who are volunteering their time to contribute to the school and kindergarten at the governance level. They are looking after our grounds (and the very exciting developments), the kindergarten and are also the holders of our special character. No prior knowledge is required but an interest in the direction of our community and the upholding of what we value. Please contact the office and come and sit in on a meeting to see what it is all about! We look forward to hearing from many of you!

## **Fair update**

Some quick updates on the fair: Raffle sheets will be handed out this Friday.

Things we are looking for:

- Apple press
- Coffee machine

Things you can already do:

- Make sure you respond to your class reps
- Collect good quality second hand clothing made of natural materials (we will let you know when and where to drop off)

- Bring your contribution to the organic food hamper (non-perishable please)
- Take a craft kit from the office and make it at home
- If you have yarn at home you do not need anymore, we welcome donations of natural fibre yarn.
- Get a fair poster and hang it up in your community
- Share the event on Facebook

## Community Cooking- Chinese New Year

This month's Community Cooking class was a very well attended and beautifully presented celebration of Chinese New Year. Betty, Peggy and their families shared with us the background of the annual New Year festival by teaching a traditional children's song and reading a picture book about the twelve signs of the Chinese Zodiac. Lovingly drawn pictographs of the 12 animals of the Zodiac and a stunning blackboard chalk drawing provided a background for the whole gathering.

The children present enjoyed the background activities and the story (not to mention the traditional snacks provided) and then either joined in with the cooking or played in the kindy grounds while parents prepared food. Together we made delicious vegetarian dumplings which were served with a couple of different soup options.

The Community Cooking class is a great way to meet families in the community and provides a marvellous insight into some of the cultural meanings within traditional cuisine. Heartfelt thanks again to Betty and Peggy and all who were involved.

*Rob Wigley*

恭喜恭喜》 Gōng Xǐ Gōng Xǐ Chinese New Year song

恭喜恭喜  
Gōng xǐ gōng xǐ  
Happy New Year!  
恭喜恭喜  
Gōng xǐ gōng xǐ  
Happy New Year!

每條大街小巷  
Měi tiáo dà jiē xiǎo xiàng  
On every big and small street  
每個人的嘴裡  
Měi gè rén de zuǐ lǐ  
It's on everyone's lips

見面第一句話  
Jiàn miàn dì yī jù huà  
The first thing people say when they meet

就是恭喜恭喜  
Jiù shì gōng xǐ gōng xǐ  
Is "Happy New Year!"

恭喜 恭喜  
Gōng xǐ gōng xǐ  
Happy New Year, happy New Year  
恭喜你呀  
Gōng xǐ nǐ ya  
Wishing you a super happy New Year!

恭喜 恭喜  
Gōng xǐ gōng xǐ  
Happy New Year, happy New Year

恭喜你  
Gōng xǐ nǐ  
Happy New Year to you!

# Literacy and Numeracy report from the Board

The Steiner school provides a well-rounded curriculum that addresses the development of the whole child. Literacy and numeracy form just one part of this. Last year's literacy results have been reviewed and collated and the results show that Dunedin Rudolph Steiner children are achieving at levels well higher than the national norms with 86% at and above class level in reading, 69% at and above in writing and 87% at and above in maths. There are no concerns in terms of gender or ethnicity and the school proactively addresses the needs of children who are not at these achievement levels.

## SCHOOL – CLASS MIRO



Tēnā koutou from Class Miro (our new class 1),

We are well and truly now part and parcel of the big school life, with 12 new Class Miro students buzzing and eager to learn! Our class has jumped right into doing it all, having already had an assembly, made our first craft in handwork, started Kapa haka, and experienced House Groups. All alongside getting used to Main Lessons, practice lessons, art, gardening, and even a pizza day!

Our first Main Lesson has been Form Drawing,





alongside an ongoing story of two children learning many lessons from the forest animals!

We are now onto our Alphabet Main Lesson and thoroughly enjoying each story that goes with the letter of the day, along with clay-work, poetry, alliterations, 'I spy' and sound-hunt games to fully discover the letter sound and shape.

Enjoy our photos. Until next time,

Ka kite anō, *Trisha and Class Miro*

## KINDERGARTEN

Last week we celebrated the Lunar New Year at kindergarten, saying goodbye to the year of the Snake and welcoming the year of the Horse. We are very fortunate to have both Peggy and Betty in our teaching team which enabled us to share such an authentic experience with the children. We made dumplings on Tuesday to have with our morning tea and lunch, the children very much enjoyed being part of this process. We shared a traditional Chinese story *The dumplings that turned to gold*, a story



about sharing wealth and good fortune for the New Year. On Thursday the children experienced a traditional puppet play told for the New Year *The mouse's wedding*, a gentle story that

celebrates the clever and joyful spirit of the mouse, a creature of great value despite its tiny size

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](mailto: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-021 1294323

## 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.**

Health Star Rating  
A good choice for teeth?

may be a better choice... but still have ADDED SUGAR!

PROTEIN & ENERGY Breakfast Drink 35g

HEALTH STAR RATING 5

A higher Star rating...

**Did you know?**  
Some foods, like flavoured milks, cereals or juice, may have a high star rating but still contain added sugar. Higher amounts of positive nutrients, like fibre or protein, can increase the star rating of a food with added sugar. A high star rating guides you towards a healthier food but doesn't mean it's a good choice for our teeth if we have it too often!

Health New Zealand  
Te Whatu Ora

Community Oral  
Health Service

Talkteeth Southern

### Port Chalmers Rogaine

#### Sun 8 March

#### A St Leonards School Fundraiser

"A team based navigation challenge, similar to a treasure hunt using a map"

10am: Rego & Map Handout  
11: am: Start  
12:30 pm: Finish

Bring cash for delicious BBQ & drinks afterwards  
Spot Prizes!  
Early Easter Theme!  
Fancy Dress Prizes!

Teams of 2-5 people, individuals welcome

Enter here:

Free intro for beginners  
10:15am

Get your mates/family/colleagues together for some fun!

Enquiries: [events@stleonardsdn.school.nz](mailto:events@stleonardsdn.school.nz)

**Friends of the Burns Reserve:** The Burns Reserve is a stretch of bush above the Steiner School - stretching from the Signal Hill memorial across to St Leonards. A volunteer group heads up there every 3 weeks or so on a Saturday morning to clear invasive weeds. It is a magnificent view from Gerry's Rock, beautiful birdlife and bush. If you are interested, then look at [burnsreserve.nz](http://burnsreserve.nz) or catch Clare Ridout to ask for more information. We welcome new volunteers - even if you only come once! Kā mihi, Clare

**Headline Family Skate Jam** Boarders and Bubbles, Fairfield Skate Park (Free!)

Join Dunedin Skateboarding School for a family skatejam event: Boarders & Bubbles, Fairfield!. The event will include:- beginner skateboarding lessons (ages 4 and up). - bubble blowing wand and detergent tube,- prizes (boards, helmets, pads etc),- ramps and kickers. - We have a limited number of spare boards. When: Sunday 8th March 2pm and 3pm. Where: Fairfield Skatepark [Book a free ticket to access lessons and Bubble wand](#)



**STEINER SCHOOL FAIR**

Second hand clothes  
Magical forest  
Activities  
Raffle  
Games  
Marionette play  
Music  
Food - Café  
Crafts  
and much more...

**Sunday  
29 March 2026  
11am - 2pm**

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

[www.dunedinsteiner.nz](http://www.dunedinsteiner.nz)      [office@dunedinsteiner.nz](mailto:office@dunedinsteiner.nz)      03 471 2163