



"Every child should stand before the soul of the teacher as a question posed."

Rudolf Steiner



NEWSLETTER

DIARY OF DATES

- Every Wednesday 9:15 am – Fair meeting in the yurt – All welcome
- Wednesday 4th Mar 5 - 7 pm Kindergarten Parent Evening
- Wednesday 11th Mar 5:30 pm Proprietors' meeting - kindy office
- Monday 23rd Mar Otago Anniversary - Public holiday**
- Wednesday 25th Mar 6 - 8 pm BoT meeting
- Saturday 4th April 11 am to 2 pm - AUTUMN HARVEST FAIR**
- Thursday 9th April Last day of term 1

PLAYGROUP TIMES (353 PINE HILL ROAD)

- Mondays 10 to 12 pm Mixed age children
- Wednesdays 10 to 12 pm Mixed age children

Greetings on this day that feels like it brings a message from Autumn, marching in on a gusty wind.

In the shadow of Covid 19 the VIRUS, I can't help thinking about how prone the children are to changes in weather and how much time we as teachers spend, sending them to get sunhats, or raincoats, or warm jackets.

At this stage there is no evidence of how the Virus will directly affect us but the germs emitted from every common cold cough or sneeze are already here. Please, dear Parents, help the children to get to school adequately equipped for all conditions; well maybe not snow. If they are sick, keep them home until they are well. If your child has heard about the coronavirus and is worried, please write to his/her teacher to let them know.

Some children seem to have quite small lunch packs and can be hungry before the end of the day. Better to have too much; hungry children often become tired restless children by the time 3.00 comes.

I see our current focus on hand washing and containing flying droplets from sneezes and coughs as good hygiene practice to reduce spread of any sort of infection over the next months.

Here's hoping that our little island may be able to contain and control whatever comes to our shores but meantime let's be as ready as we can. Roberta will include the latest Health advice as it pertains to schools; the hand washing is a bit of an eye opener!

Fair: I have just been at a Fair meeting and applaud the valiant efforts of the team as they lead the way towards our Fair in just over a month. It's been great to see parents signing up and offering to be assigned tasks.

We have selected a lovely poster from a class 7 pupil for the road signs; all their posters will be used for signage on the day.

Play in the forest: The pupils are delighted to be back playing in the forest and play is as vigorous and full on as usual.

We continue to have a high rate of accidents which the teachers are looking into; the ice pack applications are now recorded to keep track of accidents.

Class 1 Tui are settling well into their room, getting to know Julie and finding their patterns and routines.

To some extent we are giving them different playtimes so they have a chance to explore and play in relative calm. They also have play times when the whole school is out playing so they can mix with other classes.

ERO Report: We have responded to ERO's draft report and look forward to when we can announce the confirmed report and put it on the website.

Over the first weeks of school the staff and governing bodies of the school have been working on our Charter for 2020, including a revision of our values, and

vision. Full details can be found on our website: <https://www.dunedinsteiner.nz/our-charter.html> Our Vision and Values are:

Our Values

- Steiner pedagogy - which is age-appropriate, arts-based and referenced to the principles of truth, beauty and goodness
- Sanctity of childhood - free of undue rush and pressure, fostering a sense of wonder
- Whakapapa - interconnectedness with the natural world and each other
- Hauora - spiritual, emotional, physical and mental well-being
- Whanaungatanga - recognition of the humanity in each individual, the need for community and for manaakitanga of the community
- Kaitiakitanga - responsibility and guardianship of our environment and culture on behalf of future generations and childhood

Vision

We are a vibrant community with children who grow to know themselves as true kaitiaki of their future.

Remember my door is open and I welcome visits to share concerns or questions.

Ngā mihi, *Pene*

MoE Information to prevent COVID-19 spread

All schools and early learning services are still in the Keep it Out phase of a pandemic plan. The preventative measures Health is encouraging schools and early learning services to practice, are those of good hygiene, which include:

- Washing hands with soap and water before and after eating as well as after attending the toilet,
- Covering coughs and sneezes with clean tissues or with an elbow,
- Putting used tissues in the bin,
- Encouraging children, staff and students to stay home if they are unwell.

You will be aware that advice from Health asks everyone to wash your hands often and thoroughly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, making sure you dry them thoroughly. Singing Happy Birthday slowly twice, should take about 20 seconds. To assist with this messaging, there are a couple of useful videos from the National Health Service (UK) that might help teach good hand washing techniques:

- [Teaches hand washing technique](#) (UK NHS)

- [Hand washing happy birthday](#) (UK NHS)

Epi-pens

There is an initiative that is providing free EpiPens for a limited time to people who have anaphylaxis. Please look at <http://www.allergy.org.nz/> for more information or contact our Public Health Nurse, Laurie Maloney 476 9833

Organic oats orders - due now!

We will order oats this month (jumbo and quick) with Harraways. Paula has once again offered to arrange this. Her email address is mullinsfamilyotago@gmail.com The prices are very competitive for organic oats - 2Kg \$14, 5Kg \$32, 10Kg \$60, 20Kg \$115 and as with previous orders, this is a small fundraiser for the school. Oats will be delivered to the school. The craft group normally has 2Kg bags available for sale.

31 Days to Our Autumn Harvest Fair

Please act now:

- 1- Mark the date in your diary and spread the word
- 2- Put your name up on the list in the office so we know what you prefer to do.
- 3- We ask everyone to contribute bringing food for the café (salads, rolls, pastries, food that does not need to be served hot). Please indicate what you intend to bring - also on the list in the office.
- 4- **Woollen** clothing for children: Please drop them off at 120 Manapouri St - in the glasshouse,
- 5- Books for children or related to parenting, education and Anthroposophy. **No novels please.** Drop them off at 120 Manapouri St - glasshouse),
- 6- We are looking of two people to take responsibility for the café. Does anyone have experience or an interest in this area? If you are new to our community, ask us what the café is like.

On fair day we will need contributions from everyone, please start thinking about

- Setting aside apples for the apple press,
- Making preserves (jams, fermented food, relishes, etc),
- Bringing some produce such as fruit, vegetables and herbs to be sold at the fair?
- Can you lend us a gazebo so we are prepared for any weather?

If you have any questions etc., please feel free to contact the office or Gabriela (02108564793 / g.stuedemann@gmx.de).

Gabriela - on behalf of the Fair Committee

SCHOOL NEWS – Class Kereru

In Class Kereru we have begun 2020 with a hive of activities and hands on tasks as the children grow:

The vegetables and flowers we planted last year did well over the holidays with the nourishing summer rain, so we had a 'Fresh Friday Feast' using the Kale and making Taiwanese Pan Cakes, in our new school kitchen! Everyone experienced the whole journey from garden to plate with a happy "MMMmmm" and "Shie shie" upon the eating.



Another "Garden to Produce" activity was using the Calendula flowers we sowed last year (and a few more from homes and Kindy!). We were all amazed how the molten wax hardened in the warm calendula oil and we loved whizzing it up into a cream. Each one of us got our own pottle of healing ointment and we even had enough for a class jar and school jar for the office.



Check out the school Facebook page for more photos of our current Main lesson topic, which is Inspirational People, including Saint Thérèse, Dame Whina Cooper, Sir Edmund Hillary. Mother Teresa and Helen Keller so far...

And also the exciting development of our journey with Form Drawing and our new large binders for quality form drawings. Ngā mihi, *Trisha*

KINDERGARTEN NEWS

Dear whānau,

Welcome Bodhi Craik and Billie Margetson who have started in the kindergarten this week.

We have been practising handwashing in the kindergarten. Please support the use of soap and good hand washing habits at home as well.

Many children have heard about the coronavirus. You may like to read the article "How to talk to kids about Coronavirus" by Jessica Grose for Parenting NY Times. Here is a little snippet and below the link if you wish to read the whole article.

"By now, your children may have heard about the new coronavirus, whether it's from a snippet of a news briefing or from other kids at school. They may have family members who live in affected countries, or who have been quarantined here because of recent international travel. "My patients are scared," said Dr. Nia Heard-Garris, M.D., an attending physician at the Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago.

So what should you tell kids about the coronavirus, and how? We spoke to a pediatrician, two psychologists, a pediatric infectious disease specialist and a safety expert for their best tips.

Assess what your child knows

If your child is under 6 and has not heard about the virus yet, you may not want to bring it up, as it may introduce unnecessary anxiety at this point, said Abi Gewirtz, Ph.D., a clinical psychologist and professor at the University of Minnesota.

Process your own anxiety first

Don't dismiss your child's fears

Talk at an age-appropriate level

Emphasize good hygiene

Frame potential school closure as a positive"

https://parenting.nytimes.com/childrens-health/coronavirus-kids-talk?fbclid=IwAR3ViGbn6srhKHuBLpTBsXh3nJO7xW4O_w4WDVhCSDua82ZRiT94V7JXKio

If you are not sure what would be the age appropriate talk for your child, talk to your kindergarten teacher.

Ngā mihi, *The Kindergarten teachers.*

Enrolment in Class 1 in 2022 – for children born in 2015

If you wish to have your child considered for a place in our Primary School in 2022, please complete and return an Expression of Interest Form, either via e-mail to office@dunedinsteiner.nz or by mail to Dunedin Rudolf Steiner School, 1 Fern Road, Maia, Dunedin, 9022. Expression of interest forms are available from the School office, or our website. **Applications close this Friday 6th March 2020.**

PLAYGROUP

Playgroup sessions have now re-started. Sessions are on Mondays and Wednesdays 10 to 12 pm in Pine Hill. Contact Bex if you would like more information. dunedinsteinerplaygroup@gmail.com

CRAFT GROUP

Craft group is a parent group creating handmade items from natural materials to raise funds for school, kindergarten and playgroup projects that might not otherwise be funded. These are the nice to have projects but not necessarily the essential ones. An early example is the orchard by the garden shed.

We have a permanent shop just inside the office door. Payments can be made in cash in the drawer below the shelving. There is a sheet so that you can fill in what you purchase etc. Payment can also be made online to Rudolf Steiner School Trust Otago 03-1726-0004961-05

We also have in stock some Weleda items and organic rolled oats.

Please look out for the craft group sessions starting in the yurt. Time and dates to be announced soon.

Sharyn (sharyn285@gmail.com)

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

The Dunedin Rudolf Steiner School Board invites applications from parents who wish their children to be members of Class 1 in 2022.

Enrolment at the school is governed by an enrolment scheme, details of which are available at the school office. This includes a description of the criteria that will apply to the selection of students in situations where there are more applications than there are places available.

The Board has determined that 8 places are likely to be available.

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Expression of interest forms are available from the School office, or our website.

Applications close by 6th March 2020.

Babysitter: Hi! I'm Smilla, an exchange student from Germany. I am looking for a babysitting job. I will be staying in Dunedin until July and I'm going to Logan Park High School. I've got two little brothers in Germany and a 3-year-old hostbrother in NZ so I'm an experienced babysitter. I speak 3 different languages which are German, Danish and English. I like playing with little kids and spending time with them. I've travelled a lot around the world and love getting to know new countries cultures. I can come to you via the Port Chalmers bus route. If interested, call me or write me on WhatsApp or SMS: +64 22 620 9907



Cleaner wanted -daily at 3pm: The Dunedin Rudolf Steiner School seeks a cleaner for the quick after school toilet clean. 30 minutes after school on Mondays - Thursday afternoons/ evenings. Living wage paid. Please contact Clare via the office.

Short term Reliever required: Raphael House Rudolf Steiner Kindergarten: If you are a Qualified Early Childhood Teacher with a passion for Steiner Teaching please send your expression of interest and CV to Leone Pitt, Kindergarten Manager. Our physical address is 27 Matahi Street, Tirohanga, Lower Hutt or email leone.p@raphaelhouse.school.nz

Sea week: The NZ Marine Studies Centre, Department of Marine Science, is hosting a Seaweek event this coming **Sunday 8th March** at Tomahawk Beach (see poster attached). Please share in your relevant notices this week, as all are welcome to join for this MM2 event and find out what lives on this part of our shoreline! Here is the link to the event: <https://www.otago.ac.nz/marine-studies/news/events/otago733325.html> And a link to our MM2 project website: <https://www.mm2.net.nz/>