



*"The healthy social life is found  
When in the mirror of each human soul,  
the whole community finds its reflection  
and when,  
in the community, the virtue of each one is  
living."*

*Rudolf Steiner*



Class Kahikatea open morning

## NEWSLETTER

### DIARY OF DATES

- Friday 20<sup>th</sup> Mar            3 pm Walk-through Fair cookie/cake stall
- Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> Mar            Otago Anniversary - Public holiday**
- Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> Mar    6 - 8 pm BoT meeting
- Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April        11 am to 2 pm - AUTUMN HARVEST FAIR - Cancelled!**
- Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April    5:30 pm Proprietors' meeting - kindy office
- Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> 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

Dear Parents,

The sun is shining and the air feels fresh as we head into the harvest season.

It's good to be able to appreciate the things we take for granted in this time of accentuated awareness due to the virus that approaches and threatens to change all we assume as normal daily routines.

Now that Covid 19 is confirmed in Dunedin and in our nearest school Logan Park High School we are needing to be proactive in our practice.

I have asked all families associated with LPHS to keep their children at home during the 48 hour closure while the Health Authorities identify who are judged to be close contacts of the boy who was confirmed positive, and the school conducts a deep cleanse of buildings, surfaces etc.

I have been asked about staff members who are linked with Logan Park; at this stage there is no suggestion that they should be away from school but we are keeping a close eye on this as results come out.

There are many links and sites to investigate the signs, symptoms, restrictions etc which we can show/ attach to this email.

As a school we do not want to be behind in being preventative; the best indications are still those we are already following of hand washing hygiene especially after sneezing and coughing: avoiding touching and now also distancing; so not just no handshakes but also keeping a space between - as Jacinda said; be out of spitting distance.

Mostly this is manageable in the class setting but do remind your children about hand washing especially after sneezes and coughs.

## **Will the schools be closed?**

I don't like to think we will be closing the stable door too late but at this stage we see no compelling reason to close and will continue to follow Ministry guidelines.

However, if your child is worried or you have personal reasons to do so, keeping your child home is a fully understood action. Please let the office know.

On another level: as a Special Character school we work from a deeper perspective of the meaning of things and events and it is interesting to ponder a global epidemic when we live in such a global world in terms of communication, transport, economy and technology.

Over 100 years ago Rudolf Steiner spoke of the significance of germs and pandemics and how important it is to work inwardly to overcome our fear which can immobilise us and serve therefore to help the germs to flourish.

He also talked of going into sleep with something other than fear in our thoughts as being helpful to building our immunity or resistance.

This is especially true for us as parents to create a gentle, calming environment in which your child prepares for sleep.

This seems especially important at this time.

The healthy social life which we strive to cultivate in our schools is one in which we care for and uphold each other as we encounter one another, not as potential spreaders of germs but as fellow Human beings with whom we fulfil our destinies.

Just a few thoughts to share as we grapple with our environment and our thoughts at this time.

Nga mihi, *Pene*

## **Covid-19 Current School and Kindergarten Measures and Enquiry in Preparation for School Closure**

*This information was sent in an email yesterday, Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March. We are including it here in case there are families who do not have access to email.*

As you will be aware there have been significant developments in relation to COVID-19 in the last 48 hours. As a school we have been receiving updates regularly from the Ministry of Education. That resulted in the decision being made to stop all use of handshakes, high fives, clapping games, hongi and hugging from today. As the day has progressed new information has come through around camps, events, gatherings and personal travel. The focus for our governors and management is on the health and wellbeing of our community and the best interests of our staff, students, school community as well as the wider community.

A key decision agreed between Props, BoT and Management is that from today we are going to avoid/halt all community gatherings in order to protect those who are vulnerable.

Autumn Festivals – both the Kindergarten and School festivals will go ahead at the end of term but only for the staff and students, with no parents or wider community included

The Fair has been cancelled.

We want to say an enormous thank you to the team who have worked with determination and enthusiasm to strive to make it happen but it is clear on many levels that we must make this decision. Thank you to all community members who have embraced the proposed change to an Autumn event.

All parent evenings are postponed until further notice. Fortunately, most have already happened for this term.

Although we do not know of any children or families currently away, we must know if any child is in contact with people who have recently returned, even before Sunday's requirement. The guidelines for self-isolation are clearly set out:  
<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel->

[coronavirus/covid-19-novel-coronavirus-health-advice-general-public/covid-19-staying-home-self-isolation](#)

I will put a separate entry at the bottom requesting that you respond to questions relating to possible home education if the school has to close or children have to self-isolate.

Developments around COVID-19 are ongoing and we will continue to update you as new information comes to hand.

Ngā mihi, *Pene Johnstone, Helen Thomlinson, Gabriela Studeman, Clare Ridout*

### **A request for information about your access to emails and internet services:**

- Please let your class teacher know if you are unable to receive information, instructions etc as learning experiences for your child during school closure via emails and the internet.
- It is likely that this would be the method of communication most teachers would use.
- Please talk to your class teacher.

### **Walk-through Cookie/Cake Stall - Autumn Harvest Fair Thank you**

This Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March from 3 pm, we will have a cake/cookie stall in the school to say thank you to our community for your commitment and help around the fair arrangements. Come past, and grab a cake or cookie for a small donation.

### **Parking around the school**

It is great to see the number of children who are walking up from the Maia bus stop. What a healthy start to the day. We encourage parents who drive up here to make use of the Isabel Road as a parking place. Please do remember though that the new Camden Grove Estate road below our school is a private road and not for public use

### **Charitable donations**

We'd like to remind our community that the end of the tax year approaches (31 March). Donations made before that date could be claimed against tax paid in that year. You may wish to made additional donations now to the school/ Proprietors Trust in order to get the tax back sooner. Any questions - ask at the office

### **Lost Property**

I never cease to be amazed at what sits in our lost property... a new pair of shoes, for example! Please come and have a look, and take what is yours or from your family. Thanks. *Clare*

## SCHOOL NEWS – Piwakawaka Girls Sports Day

The Piwakawaka girls had a great time at the girls only sports day earlier this month. They've had a chance to try their hands at Tennis, Field Hockey, Football and Cricket. Everyone had a clear but different favourite sport. All of our girls gave their very best to every sport they tried and really made our school proud both on and off the field. As part of the sports day, all of the girls participating were also given the unique opportunity to learn how to referee football games from a world recognized football referee which was a real treat.



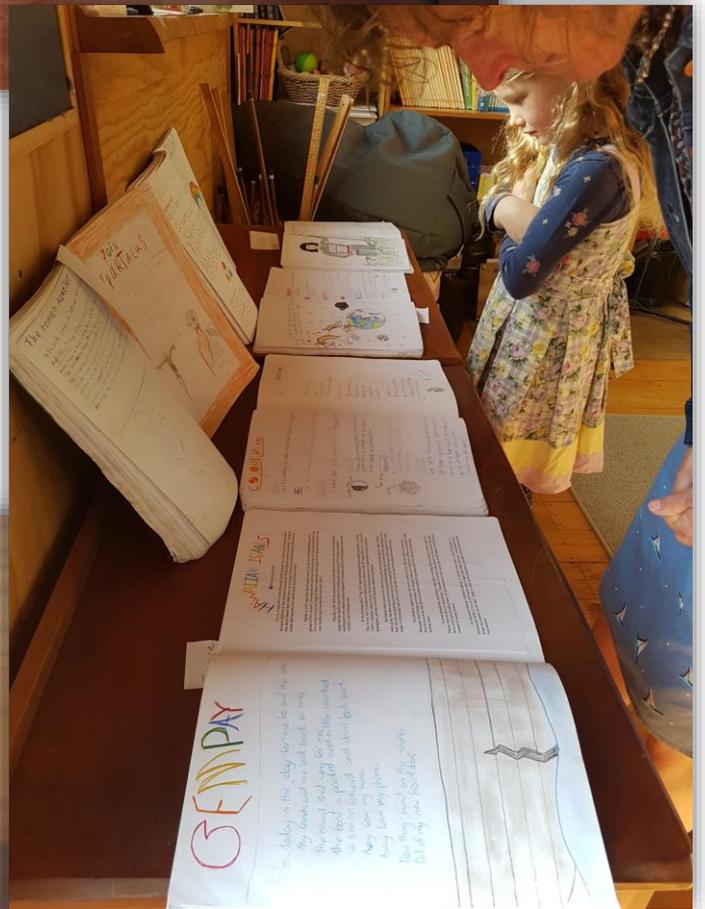
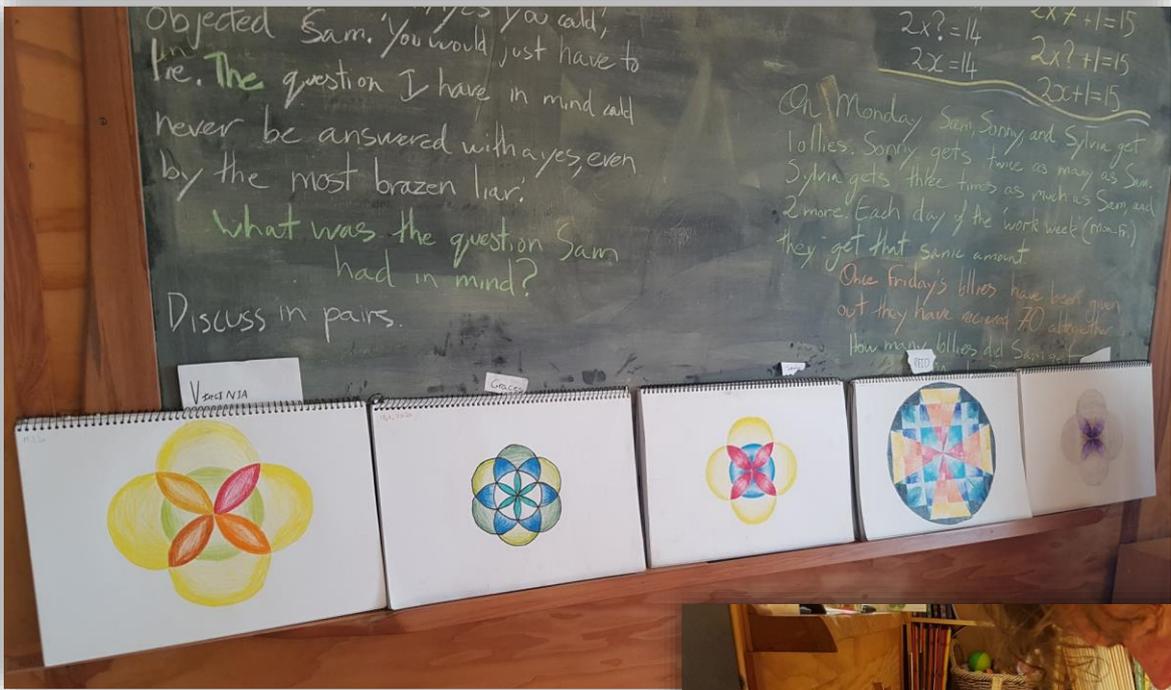
At the end of the day there was a prize giving where a few children from hundreds were chosen based on their skill, sportsmanship and willingness to learn and participate. Mila was one of 12 children recognized for her athletics receiving a prize for her efforts in cricket! It was an absolute pleasure spending the day with our young budding athletes. Well done girls! *Zahra*

## Class Kahikatea – Open Morning



Class Kahikatea welcomed parents and pupils into their classroom last Thursday morning. There was a lovely array of work on show. Thank you for sharing class Kahikatea!!!

See below a sample of their Main Lesson books, form drawing and the models they had been working on.



## KINDERGARTEN NEWS

Dear whānau,

Thank you to all those who attended the recent parent evening. There was some great sharing of experiences of parenting a young child, and the honest engagement contributed to a successful evening. Some of the teachers have been to conferences where a great parenting expert, Mary Willow, has given workshops, and they were able to pass on some of her knowledge: If you find yourself caught up in a power struggle with your child, try to keep calm and centred. Not making eye contact during the storm can be a good tool. If you need to leave the room to gather yourself and release the build-up tension or anger, do so.

Don't over complicate instructions. If it can be condensed into a sentence, do so. If that sentence can then be condensed into a word, do that. If it is still not working, say nothing, but don't give in. Stand by them calmly until the storm has passed and a return to fairer weather is possible.

Kim John Payne is an experienced teacher, parenting expert and author whose books 'Simplicity Parenting' and 'The Soul of Discipline', we highly recommend. Their website 'Simplicity Parenting' offers advice and excellent short podcasts on specific topics. Check them out at <https://www.simplicityparenting.com>. We will continue to prepare for our Harvest Festival regardless of whether or not we may be able to hold our festival this year. We will keep you posted.

We continue to practise healthy hygiene by hand washing with soap for an acceptable amount of time, not just a quick flick under the tap, and learning to catch coughs and sneezes in the crook of our elbow, with our head turned away from others. We are no longer holding hands in the Kindergarten, for obvious reasons, but the children are remarkably adaptable, and a simple explanation e.g. "we're trying it a different way" etc., suffices.

On that note, it is important to try to create positive pictures for the children to take into their sleep with them. There is a climate of fear in the media that children should be shielded from. Beautiful stories at bedtime will go a long way towards counteracting anything that children may inadvertently pick up. It is worth actively protecting your children from media sources such as the radio and television news. They do not need to know anything about current events.

*Arohanui, Julie, Kate, Sandra, Aleisha, Alida and Junko*

## PLAYGROUP

Please note there will be no session this Monday the 23<sup>rd</sup> March as it is Otago Anniversary Holiday. Sessions are on Mondays and Wednesdays 10 to 12 pm in Pine Hill. Contact Bex if you would like more information.

[dunedinsteinerplaygroup@gmail.com](mailto:dunedinsteinerplaygroup@gmail.com)

## CRAFT GROUP

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. We also have in stock some Weleda items and organic rolled oats. Payment can also be made online to Rudolf Steiner School Trust Otago 03-1726-0004961-05

There will be no craft group sessions until further notice.

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



The Art of Well-being Workshop:

For more information, go to:

<https://www.taruna.ac.nz/courses-and-workshops/pathways-of-transformation/art-of-well-being-i/>

**Student Club NSO:** The New Zealand Symphony Orchestra invites students to join our Student Club which offers cheap tickets to three of our Podium series concerts and a bundle of opportunities including a backstage pass, meeting the musicians for Q and A, and help with pick-up arrangements after concerts as students will be chaperoned by an NZSO representative. All of this is available for \$39 starting with the [Mavericks](#) tour in Christchurch and Dunedin later this month. This offer also includes the [Emperor](#) programme in May, and the [Metamorphosis](#) programme in October. To join the Student Club and book your tickets, email a copy of a valid student ID along with name, age, address, contact details, and selected town to [ticketing@nzso.co.nz](mailto:ticketing@nzso.co.nz). [Click here](#) to see information about our Student Club on the website.