



Never was war in this world, nor  
wickedness so cruel but that love, if he  
liked, could bring all to laughing.

Piers Plowman



## NEWSLETTER

### DIARY OF DATES

Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	School and Kindergarten are closed for Otago Anniversary Day
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> April	Kindergarten Harvest Festival
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> April	Proprietors meeting 7pm

### PLAYGROUP TIMES (353 PINE HILL ROAD)

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

### Kia ora koutou,

Who would have thought that such a despicable act of hate would inspire such love in an outpouring that seems to encircle the world.

Aotearoa is in the hearts and thoughts of nations and families across the globe.

Here at our little school everything seems calm and the children are getting on with life, work and play, but it does alert us all to any signs of aggression, unkindness or bullying.

It is a chance to review one's practice and the level of tolerance we have for slightly unacceptable behaviour.

Interestingly enough we, as teachers, have been reviewing our Behaviour Management Policy and Procedure over the last few weeks to see if it is fit for purpose. While our aspiration is always to work to transform behaviour through various means including restorative justice after the event, nevertheless there need to be consequences for deliberate or careless acts which endanger/ hurt others or the persons themselves. It is refreshing to review our methods and adjust, based on our observations and perceived needs.

We have looked over the day, season/ year for patterns of frequency.

I must hasten to assure you that we enjoy the wonderful engagement of the children in work and play on a fantastic level of goodness and kindness, social consideration and caring for each other. They are a great bunch!!

Nevertheless, stuff happens.

We find it necessary to introduce an After School Practice as many of the incidents can happen then, as children wait to be picked-up or taken home.

**We will have a Duty teacher on duty from 3.00 to 3.20 each day, supervising the children's departure.**

Although play is a very valid form of unwinding/ maybe the best, we have had many incidents where someone got hurt during this time.

We like to ask you to become aware of this timeframe. Please keep an eye on your charges at pick up and let the teacher on duty know if anything is amiss; both verbal or physical. We know that there is sensitivity around addressing the behaviour of another parent's child. Please talk to us - we will be there to be the behaviour managers!

After 3.20pm we request that all families are gone from the site, leaving teachers free for meetings, classroom and preparation work. Organised supervised sports or other practice is allowed but please tell me if this is a formal request. Merely watching the children playing football in a casually supervised way is very popular for some of the older children but it needs to happen within the timeframe set out above. We are putting this in place to support all the children and parents in the school. I look forward to working with you on this.

Please see me if you have questions, thoughts or requests.

Pene

## **Open letter by the Muhammed – Shah family**

Kia Ora,

These past few days have been heart breaking to say the least. The attack in Christchurch had left our family feeling very vulnerable and emotional for lack of better words. We wanted to send our sincerest gratitude to our school whanau who during this dark time made us feel incredibly loved. To all those who called, messaged, stopped by our home or even just thought about us in the wake of these terrible events Thank you. Your kindness helped guide us through those dark moments and has been incredibly touching and uplifting. It will take us time to heal and to recover from the shock of it all, however please know your kindness has meant such a great deal to our family.

With love and thanks,

The Muhammed - Shah family.

## **Capital Campaign**

Thank you to all who attended our launch – and thanks also to those who made it such a good event. A beautiful brochure has been posted to everyone locally with an interest in the school and we look forward to the opportunity to speak to people about it over the next few weeks. You may receive a call! This is a major campaign for us, which we are asking people to consider carefully. If you have further questions, please get in touch with us. *Clare, Silke and Jess*

Remember that I am always happy to speak to anyone who has any further questions about the building project and our fundraising campaign. Call the office, drop by or email [claredrss@gmail.com](mailto:claredrss@gmail.com)

## **Parental financial contributions to the school and kindergarten**

As the end of the tax year approaches, please remember to make sure your regular contributions to the school and/ or kindergarten have been set up. Any donations made prior to the 31 March can have the tax claimed back in the next few months. What better incentive can you have to make your contributions now!

## Thank you to Port Otago

Thanks to Port Otago for the gift of a 21 foot container for us to store items that we used to store in our basement.

## 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.

## SCHOOL NEWS

### Class 1 & 2



Kia Ora koutou,

We have been very busy Piwakawaka! (Class 3/4)

The term is zooming by, but we have made the best of it. You may have noticed that there are new raised beds on the topfield? This is part of our building main lesson. The children have been using all of their skills in maths for the process of measuring and in English for writing about their experiences. As well as academic experience the children are also using their physical endurance. This is hard work and the ground has been very dry and difficult to work with but they all did a great job at preparing the ground and turning the grass over. The wood itself was very heavy to move but again the children stepped up to the challenge, moving the wood with great co-operation, even managing to melt the heart of the delivery man

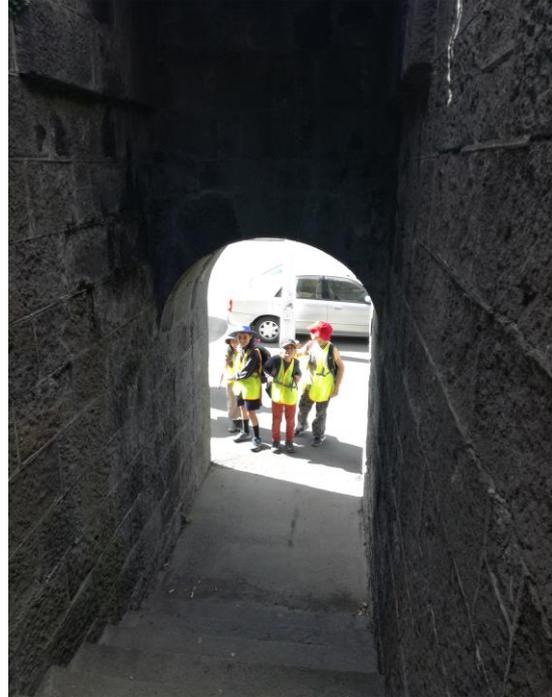
who was very impressed with their eagerness and manners when speaking to him. Thanks to Ken Campbell for his help with his use of a circular saw and building help and guidance for the children. Now we have 4 new raised beds in the vegetable garden area and can look forward to lots of great produce in the future.

Also as part of our building main lesson we had a trip out to Dunedin town centre for an architecture walk which was great. Athol Parks had planned a walk for us and was our guide. We spent the majority of the time in the Vogel street area where we discovered some wonderful history and the various ways they were built and the reasons why. We also found a walkway none of us knew about and the reason why the sheep are in the pedestrian area. Fascinating! If you want to know



more ask a piwakawaka about what they've been doing, I'm sure they'll be happy to tell you all about their building main lesson.

Nga mihi nui, Jane and the piwakawaka.



## Our youngest Violin students received their first Cello lesson



# KINDERGARTEN NEWS

Dear Whanau,

Welcome Clara Reid to the Rata room.

Thank you to those who were able to attend our parent night. There was some valuable discussions about the four lower senses and what we do in the Kindergarten to support those. The take home for those of you who missed is how crucial it is to our special character that things that come from home remain neutral **ie slippers, lunch boxes, bags, clothes**. We recognize that this can be a challenge but urge you to read our hand out if you are not on board with this (available in all rooms). Each room would like to have at least one parent rep per room; please come and see us if you are interested. It is mainly a liaison position and helping organize such things as clothes swaps and special events.

Autumn has arrived in all her glory and the Kindergarten means preparations for our Harvest Festival. The Tuakana are busy working on their swords and we begin our windy capes and crowns this week. Julie

In the light of the awful events in Christchurch, we are just forwarding these wise and very pertinent words on about protecting our tamariki from trauma. Thank you to Filipa Hope for sharing this, and for Tracey Lee for putting it together. Love and light, The Taikura Liaison Team xx Those with children please consider reading this. Thank you for posting Traceylee. Adapted from the words of Kim John Payne, author of Simplicity Parenting.

Filtering Out the horror and terror from the events that occurred in our country today is so important when we look to our children. I urge that young children (under 9 or 10 years) not be exposed to news reporting on screen or radio, or adult conversations about the shooting that occurred in Christchurch today. Young children do not really grasp that repeated announcements are about one single horrific event. I'm a well adjusted adult and I can barely make sense of the horror.

Each time our children hear a news report about the shooting, or overhear an unguarded adult conversation, the risk is that it sets off a brain-based "cascade" of fight-or-flight hormones which can significantly delay their healing and trust in our communities and country.

While tweens and teens can intellectually know that these reports are about the same event, the same "amygdala hijack," fight or flight response occurs on a deeper level. For those of you who have listened and been inspired by the work of Nathan Mikaere Wallis, you will know what I am talking about.

There is a compelling body of research indicating that kids who watch repeated media images of the tragic events could suffer PTSD like symptoms very similar to the people who were actually involved in the incident first hand. Who wants that for their kids?

The filtering out mantra applies here more than ever. Before you say anything in front of your child ask yourself three simple questions.

1. Is it true? 2. Is it kind? 3. Is it necessary? Unless your instinct gives you a very clear "yes" to each of these questions, chances are it is way better to defer the comment until your child is not present.

For tween and teens, spend time "hanging out" with them. Simply sitting nearby while they do their homework or listening to music is a subtle but important part of being present and available.

The metaphor of taking a break from the turbulent waters of world events and mooring your canoe along side your tween or teenager on a calmer riverbank of simple and familiar family life, seems to fit here.

## PLAYGROUP

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

### Self-Issued Receipt – Dunedin Steiner School Craft Group Shop

Date:     //     Purchase Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Account details: Rudolf Steiner School Trust **03-1726-0004961-05**

Please put your date of purchase and name/initials in the reference line of the payment.

Payment by bank transfer expected within three (3) working days of purchase. Thanks!

Many Thanks     *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*

**Disclaimer: This space is open to advertisers and the school does not make any guarantees or endorsement on their behalf.**

**Birdlife Productions –Puppet Show** coming to Dunedin for 2 days only - at The New Athenaeum Theatre on Saturday 30th and Sunday 31st March. Only \$8/\$10 per ticket! More info under [www.birdlifeproductions.co.nz](http://www.birdlifeproductions.co.nz) and [www.facebook.com/BirdlifeProductions](http://www.facebook.com/BirdlifeProductions)

**Scout Groups in Otago will be holding an Open Day on Sunday 31st March, from 11am - 2pm** at all local scout groups. Sections for 5-18 year olds. Find your local group at [scoutgroupdirectory.co.nz](http://scoutgroupdirectory.co.nz)

**Around the world in 80 tales:** Storytelling Festival - Saturday 30 March - 11 am -3.30pm - City Library Free .....

**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.



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.



How exciting!  
Pene, our principal, heard the lovely song of a Kaka this morning above our school.  
Keep an ear and an eye open. Maybe the Kaka will visit us again.

Our “Property lost and found basket” is getting full. Please come to the office and have a look if you find some clothing that you haven’t even been missing.