



In sunlight of my soul are sprouting now
 The ripening fruits of thinking;
 To certainty of conscious self
 All feeling now transforms itself.
 Now I can sense in joyful mood
 The autumn spirit waking:
 The winter will in me
 Wake summer of the soul.

Rudolf Steiner, translation by Daisy Aldan



NEWSLETTER

2026 TERM 2

School

Rātu/Tuesday 26th May 5:30pm School Parent Experience- Morning Circle **RSVP**
 Rāapa/Wed 24th June Parent teacher interviews

Kindergarten

Rātu/Tuesday 5th May 5:30pm Kindy Parent Experience- Morning Circle **RSVP**
 Rātu/Tuesday 2nd June 5pm Kindy Lantern walk

Governance

Rātū/Tuesday 12th May 5:30pm Board meeting
 Rātū/Tuesday 19th May 5:30pm Proprietors meeting

Other

Rāhoroi/Saturday 2nd May 10 am to 2 pm WORKING BEE
 Rāhina/Monday 1st June King's birthday Public holiday – we are closed

Playgroup Rāhina/Mondays and Rāapa/Wednesdays 9:30 to 11:30 am

Craftgroup Rātū/Tuesday 9 to 11am

Kia ora koutou,

The children have come back with energy and a readiness to learn which is not only contagious but can be felt right across all classes! It is heartwarming to see how the children bounce into class, bounce into their play time and back into class afterwards. They are well held in the rhythm and expectations of the day and this certainty allows them to put their all into their learning experience.

We are starting off the term with plenty of movement among staff with Becca leaving, welcoming Bec and the recent news of Judith's resignation due to family circumstances. These are times when our community holds strong and provides the stable grounds for our children to walk on. Please take note of some community gathering opportunities:

Saturday (this week), 10-2pm Working bee, please come for a couple of hours to help out.

Tuesday, 5th (kindy) and 26th of May (school) at 5:30pm Parent experience evening we will revisit the morning circle so come and get a glimpse of what your child experiences at school and kindy every day.

We also welcome Lingyi into class Kiokio, her and her family have joined us from China and she has made a lovely start to her time here in a very different part of the world. We look forward to term 2, with shorter days but not less excitement and enjoyment of learning as this is what the children and the teachers bring into our kura and their classrooms every day.

Kā mihi,

Anna Noble -Tumuaki/Principal

Special Character Thoughts: Handwork

With a change of teacher in our handwork space this week, the question of why we do handwork and how it fits within our special character seems a timely one to address. Handwork complements the academic work in our kura and often leads to a sense of achievement, when another beautiful and useful item has been completed (e.g. recorder case, hat, pillowcase etc) and sits comfortably in developing head, heart and hands. However, its reach goes far beyond the tangible items; working with raw materials means the children develop agency as they are stepping into a relationship with the world around them; fine finger dexterity builds brain synapses and fosters cognitive development as well as connecting the two hemispheres of the brain when both hands have to work together.

When children learn to knit, they learn to count and not only recognise patterns but also become the maker of the patterns; these are precursors not only to maths but also geometry and general abstract and spatial understanding. This then supports the eye, hand and brain coordination by the children bringing into reality the things they imagined in their head with colours and spaces. Finally, tasks like knitting or other handwork projects build resilience as the child has to see the process through to the end to arrive at the final product, row by row and stitch by stitch. This in the end builds self-esteem as the child has made it through a process to show a product that cannot only stand by itself but has also educated the whole child and nurtured hands, heart and head for the more academic learning in their school day. Handwork is a truly an area that works with the whole child and is therefore not only highly valued but a vital part of our special character.

Personnel:

- We farewelled Becca with the gift of a beautifully knitted scarf that all children, staff and even some alumni contributed to. This was organised by Sharyn and topped off with a surprise waiata sung by the children to send Becca off. We wish her all the best for her new work in her old school.



- We are welcoming Bec to the handwork space and look forward to her making the space her own. She met the children last week and will take over the classes this week.

- We received Judith's resignation as she has had to make the hard decision between her work or supporting her family overseas. We will hold the children through this change while we advertise the position.

Kā mihi, *Anna Noble*

Meet Bec Pearson

Kia ora koutou!

Ko Bec tōku ikoa and I'm so excited to be starting at this beautiful kura as the handwork/woodwork kaiako. I want to acknowledge Becca and all the mahi she's poured into this space the last 5 years, I know you'll be very much missed!



A little about me, I grew up in the north of Tāmaki Makaurau and have lived all over the country since, but happily settled in Ōtepoti a few years ago. My background is in Environmental Studies and conservation, which

later led me to wanting to get my Post Grad diploma in Primary teaching. I'm inspired and motivated to help foster a real relationship between tamariki and the natural world. I love the tangibility of craft and this relationship, this has been a constant in my life that has brought me much joy.

I look forward to meeting you all, please feel free to come say hi and introduce yourself! *Bec*

Working Bee this Saturday

Kia ora koutou, please join us at the working bee for a couple of hours this Saturday 10am to 2pm.

Jobs are listed here [link](#) and a small group will also be working to improve the kindergarten sandpit. Can anyone bring 3 untreated wooden pallets for a compost heap? Let the office know if you can. A chainsaw would be handy too.

We have two people making soup, so bring some bread to share, and we look forward to a sunny, social and productive day. Come for a couple of hours or more!

Kā mihi, *Clare*

School and Kindy Parent Experience Evening: Morning Circle

You are warmly invited to our next parent experience evening. Come and join the teachers sharing about the way they start their day with your children every day, namely the morning circle. Learn about what the purpose of the morning circle is and how that develops over the years. Try out some of the activities the children do in the morning and get to know some other parents in the community along the way.

Tuesday, 5th of May for kindy and 26th of may for school, both at 5:30pm.

We do need a minimum number of parents to make this evening worthwhile so please RSVP as soon as possible via email if you are coming to the school evening and either email or verbally to the teachers if you are attending the kindy evening, so we know if this offering will go ahead! We look forward to seeing many of you next week!

Class Kea is fundraising

Class Kea is fundraising for a tbd activity later this school year and selling Bay Road Peanut Butter. Both crunchy and smooth peanut butter are for sale \$10 for a jar (480g) and \$35 for a bucket (2.2kg). Sales are closing Friday, May 8th. If you'd like to place an order. Reach out to Lydia Stacey (Ian's mom) at 0273292709. Cheers!

Lydia

World Vision Junior Youth Conference



On Thursday 23rd April six students from Class Kākāpō and Kea attended the World Vision Junior Youth Conference at the Edgar Centre. This was a great opportunity to learn more about the world around us, build our leadership skills and plan how we are going to do the 40 Hour Challenge at our school this year. We were one of a number of schools from the Dunedin area and it was great to see our students engage with tricky material and speak

up. Stay tuned for further information about the 40 hour Challenge which will run from June 19th-21st.

Reimbursements

If anyone has pre-approved expenses that are to be reimbursed by the school then please remember that these should be claimed within a month.

SCHOOL-CLASS KĀKĀPŌ

Kia ora koutou,

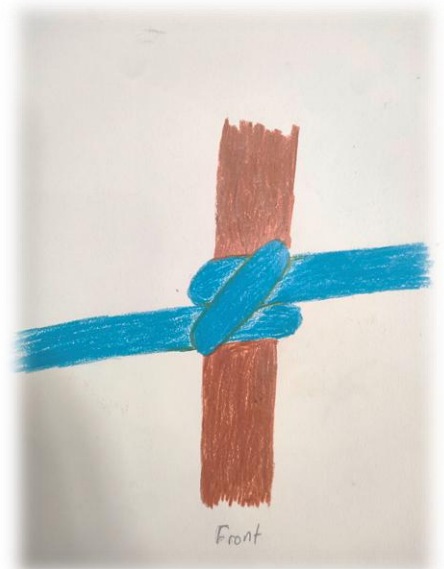
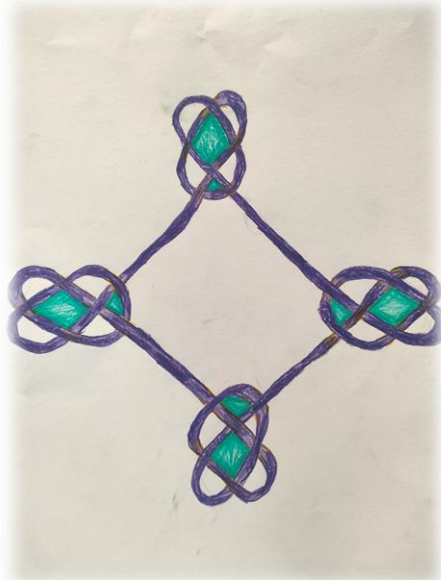
Class Kākāpō has been enjoying the Autumn season. We have stewed apples, and grown pumpkins: one of the pumpkins is for eating, while the other is more decorative.



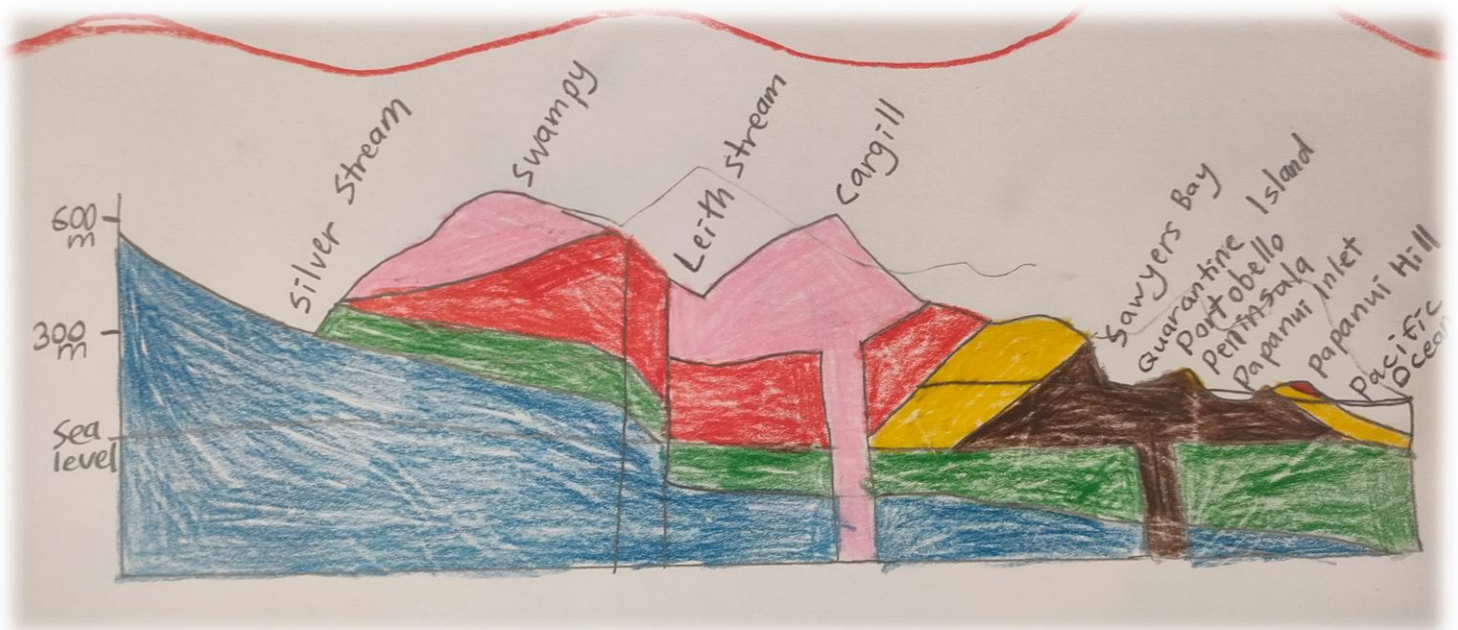
We have been exploring the evolution and history of writing. We have looked at key stages; starting with cave painting, moving through stages like pictographs and runes, through to the modern alphabet and illuminated letters.



We started the term with form drawing. This term the class has started to learn basic knot tying, with the students drawing their knots as forms.



This week we started a Main Lesson on Local and Personal History. To begin this unit, we expanded our knowledge of local geography (and previewed geology) with an overview of the Dunedin Volcano.



As you can see, Class Kākāpō have been enjoying a wide variety of new learnings and are getting their first tastes of what being in the senior end of the school is like.

Until next time, Be Well, James

KINDERGARTEN

Welcome Matias to the Koru room, Heath to the Rata room and Harry to the Kōwhai room along with their whānau.

This is a season of connecting socially with lots of opportunities for getting together at kindy and school. This Saturday is our termly working bee.

Our parent evening is coming up next week, 5.30 in the Kōwhai room. We look forward to seeing you all there. This is a nice opportunity to connect socially with the other parents and experience movement in the kindergarten as well as learn to make beautiful paper stars to decorate your windows.

Individual whānau meetings are also scheduled for this term and will commence in week 5 and 6, keep a look out for when slots become available. Remember these need to be child free, if you cannot make an in-person meeting with your teachers a phone meeting can be scheduled. Perhaps with your friends in kindy you can arrange to take turns minding each other's children out in the garden while you meet.

Towards the end of the term and the winter solstice we will be celebrating the season with an outdoor lantern walk and an indoor spiral walk.

The Kindergarten Teachers

Rest in Peace Tiki

We wanted to acknowledge the sad passing of Julie's most beloved dog Tiki. He was a special dog who brought a lot of joy to the kindergarten children over his years with us. He delighted the children in his younger days by jumping over the skipping rope, sliding down the slide and being the ultimate vacuum cleaner around the table on rice day! As he got older, he would spend time sleeping in the sun in the Rata room while the children played around him and was happy to have his little jacket on to come outside on his lead with children taking turns to walk him around the garden. He was a lovely presence in the kindergarten for all the children and their families and will be greatly missed.



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

CRAFTGROUP

If you have some spare time, please join us at our Tuesday meetings after drop-off. Join us for a lovely social time in the playgroup room. We've got plenty of tasks for every skill level. Thanks, Miho-0211294323

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



Homeopathy for Winter Wellness – A beginner's Workshop
Support yourself and your whanau naturally this winter with homeopathy. A friendly and practical 2-hour introductory course designed to help you confidently use natural homeopathic remedies for winter niggles.
Saturday 30th May. 12.30 pm-2.30 pm.
South Dunedin Library.
Booking



Link <https://events.humanitix.com/homeopathy-for-winter-wellness-a-beginners-workshop>

Otago Youth Wellness is hosting a free community event, a presentation by Psychologist Karen Young on 'Strengthening Children & Teens Against Anxiety'. This is a great opportunity for information and resourcing aimed at parents, caregivers, teachers, support staff, etc. Here is a [link](#) to further information and also the tickets (it's free, but the venue capacity is only 400 so people will need to order a ticket).

The **Dunedin Midwinter Carnival** is a much-loved community event that has been running for decades and is often a highlight for many whānau. Our lantern workshops also provide a wonderful opportunity for families to be part of the magic by creating their own lanterns and participating in the parade. The workshops will kick off May 23 & 24 and run in the following weekends ahead of the main event - 30 & 31 May + 6 & 7 June, main event 12 & 13 June. <https://www.midwintercarnival.co.nz/>

Dear Colleagues in the Waldorf Education Community, I'm writing on behalf of Turmalina Waldorf School, a non profit Waldorf school in Curitiba, Brazil, serving nearly 200 children. We are facing a critical transition: after leaving the land where the school operated for over 20 years, we must complete our new school site by July 2026 so that classes can continue without interruption for the remainder of the year. Our community has already raised nearly USD 200,000, and we are now working to raise the remaining amount needed to make the new space ready for the children on time. We would like to ask for your support in a simple act of international Waldorf solidarity: please share our fundraising campaign with your community — families, teachers, alumni, and supporters. Campaign link:

<https://donorbox.org/help-save-a-waldorf-school-in-brazil-nearly-200-children-at-risk>

We are reaching out to fellow Waldorf schools because, at this moment, we truly need to go beyond our immediate community in order to sustain our school. We believe Waldorf education lives through a wider network of solidarity, and we are turning to that network now with humility and hope.

A poster for a contemporary jewellery exhibition. The top half has a yellow background with the word 'tiny' in a cursive font inside a circle, with 'PRESENTS' below it. The bottom half has a light blue background with the text 'CONTEMPORARY JEWELLERY' on the left and 'OPEN STUDIO EXHIBITION' on the right. In the center, the words 'ROUND & ROUND' are arranged in a circular pattern. Below that, it says '11AM - 4PM' and '24 APRIL - 16 MAY'. At the bottom, it lists the location: 'Top Floor, 130 Stuart St, Ōtepoti, Dunedin' and the artists: 'JOHN Z ROBINSON - AURORA SMYTH - MILDRED JEWELLERY'.

A poster for a winter clothing drive. The top part shows a red heart icon and the text 'WINTER CLOTHING Drive' in a green circle. Below that, it says 'Donation Drop-off Hours Monday - Friday' and 'From 25 May 9:00am - 4:00pm'. The location is 'The Valley Project 262 North Road, North East Valley, Dunedin'. It also states: 'The Valley Project will be accepting donations of clean, tidy, winter appropriate apparel starting the week of 25 May for our annual "Winter Warmer". We hope to receive a good mix of men's, women's and kid's clothing, as well as bedding, curtains and winter accessories.' At the bottom, there are social media icons for Instagram and Facebook, and the text '@valleyproject | project@northeastvalley.org' and '03 473 8614'.