



Mā tehuruhuru kā rere te manu.

Adorn the bird with feathers so it may fly — nurture the learner so they may thrive.



Photo by the Albatross Centre

NEWSLETTER

2026 TERM 2

School

Rātu/Tuesday 26 th May	5:30-7pm School Parent Experience- Morning Circle RSVP
Rāapa/Wed 24 th June	Parent teacher interviews
Rāmere/Friday 29th May	Teacher Only Day – school closed and kindy open
Rāmere/Friday 3 rd July	1pm Matariki Celebration

Kindergarten

Rātu/Tuesday 2 nd June	5:30pm Kindy Lantern walk
Rāpare/Thursday 18 th June	5:30pm Kindy spiral walk

Governance

Rātū/Tuesday 19 th May	5:30pm Proprietors meeting
Rātū/Tuesday 9 th June	5:30pm Board meeting

Other

Rāhina/Monday 1 st June	King’s birthday Public holiday – we are closed
Rāmere/Friday 12 th June	9:30am-1pm – Community cooking

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

Week 4 of the term already and the wind is blowing a little colder, a few more leaves are on the ground, and we are starting to see some warm hats on the children's heads.

Thank you to everyone who came to the working bee; it was a beautiful example of our community coming together and appreciating the grounds by looking after them. Quite separate from all the amazing work that gets completed in a very short amount of time, the working bees show a sense of community. Considering that community is at the very heart of what we are aiming for, this is a practical opportunity to practice and live community, a hugely valuable lesson in our special character for our tamariki that goes beyond the classroom.

Please keep an eye out for the many things coming up this term, parent experience hosted by Katie and James, our matariki celebration, spiral walk for the kindergarten and parent teacher interviews for the school parents.

We look forward to continuing to nurture our special character through community!

Kā mihi,

Anna Noble

Tumuaki

Special Character Thoughts: Rhythm

Rhythm is woven through everything we do at kindergarten and school; the rhythm of the day, the week, the seasons. We often talk about rhythm and how it supports and guides the flow of the day and supports the development and learning of each child. Rhythm is not routine as it is not time bound but rather a situation in which one thing follows on from the next. When one activity flows into the next, the child knows what to expect; in kindergarten our tamariki can engage deeply in their play, while in school the engagement with their learning at hand can be relaxed and calm, allowing their entire bodies to be in the learning experience because the children are not having to live in the unknown of what will come next.

Steiner believed that rhythm helps a child to internalise a sense of order and security, thus allowing the learning, may it be play or academic, to fall on solid ground. Rhythm is often referred to as an in-breath, followed by an out-breath – therefore very much following the natural order of things for the child. In kindergarten the children will start with a morning circle, the in-breath, followed by free play, the out-breath. In the primary school you will find a teacher-led activity, the in-breath, followed by a practical experience or artistic expression, the out-breath. When the outer activities and experiences can align with the inner rhythm of the child, the learning experiences land

deeply and naturally, without too much effort as the child feels safe and supported through a predictable rhythm.

The daily rhythm we follow therefore goes beyond academics; it supports the child's holistic development and nurtures their physical, emotional and spiritual well-being. Honouring the natural life rhythms and creating a nurturing environment allows the child to be deeply connected with themselves and the world and to grow into confident and balanced individuals.

School 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.

This evening will be led by James and Katie focusing on upper school circle time.

Tuesday, 26th of May 5:30pm.

Late start or closure due to weather conditions

As the cold days are approaching we want to remind everyone that in the event of morning snow or extremely bad and icy conditions on the roads, the school and kindergarten may have a late start of 10am. The decision is based on whether staff can arrive at school safely. If a late start is declared, we will post on our Facebook page and a voice message noting the late start will be recorded on the office phone. School families will also receive a text message and kindergarten families will receive an email. If it is decided that the road conditions are too dangerous and school and kindy will be closed for the whole day, this will be announced the same way by 8:15 am. Please note that we make a call considering if we can staff the school and kindergarten and therefore be open. Families need to make their own assessment on whether their local roads are safe for driving.

Please ensure we have your current contact details. If you have changed phone numbers or email address recently, let the office know.

SCHOOL-HANDWORK

Kia ora koutou,

It's been a wonderful few weeks getting to know the taura and seeing just how capable they are. Handwork is beautiful! The way gifts from the earth transform through our hands, patience and attention into gifts for one another. I'm loving seeing the value the tamariki hold for this.

Class Miro are well underway with their knitting, creating gorgeous rabbits, balls and treasure bags. Class Kiokio have been busily knitting to make hats, recorder bags and dolls complete with outfits. Class





Kākāpō are impressing me with their focus on embroidery and cross stitch, and Class Kea with their uniquely designed tote bags with personalised prints.

It's special to see the big grins that come with completing projects, and I hope they will be bringing their projects home proudly, as they should be very proud!

We're
lucky with
a
beautiful
fresh

handwork room - thank you to all that came to the working bee and gave a hand to establish the space. I'm settling in very happily and grateful to be amongst an amazing, supportive team. Special mention to Sharyn who has been such a wonderful help in this transition.



It's been lovely meeting many of you, please do come say hi!

Kia pai te wiki,

Bec

KINDERGARTEN

Kia Ora Kindy Whānau,

It was lovely to join together as a community for our first parent experience of the year last Tuesday evening. We had the pleasure of moving and singing together as the children do in their daily circle and getting some insight from the teachers into the underlying reasons why movement is so vital for the children's learning, particularly from the perspective of our special character curriculum and understanding of child development. We even managed a short round with one of the songs that the teachers sing when they gather each day before the children arrive, giving a little taste of the way teachers embed these beneficial practices in all aspects of their work. Even as someone who has been part of the inner world of the kindergarten it was so worthwhile to connect with the teachers as a parent and soak up all their wisdom and experience. We finished the evening with a light craft activity. As we learned to fold wax paper window stars we were able to continue our conversations and enjoy the good company. It was such a treasure to bring home a star to adorn our own window and add another brick to that bridge between family life and kindergarten. For those who couldn't make it this time, instructions can be found at <https://www.mudandbloom.com/blog/window-stars> and the waxed kite paper is available for purchase from the school's craft shop in the office.



Keep a look out for the next kindergarten parent evening, planned for the second half of next term when we feel the pull and renewed energy of spring. The winter too is full of social opportunities and festivities. The date of our Lantern Walk is set for the evening of Tuesday 2nd of June.

Another chance to connect directly with your child's kindergarten teachers is coming up with our scheduled individual whānau meetings. There should be sign up sheets posted soon. If there is not a time to suit you, have a chat with your teachers who will see what they can accommodate, including phone meetings.

We are pleased to announce that we have this week received our Confirmed Education Review Office Report, following the ERO teams visit in February. The report should be available on the ERO website shortly and in the meantime, we can supply copies via email on request. We are very happy with the findings, having been judged above the quality threshold in all areas. The teachers work incredibly hard to continually improve practices and it is heartening when these efforts are seen and acknowledged. Good progress was made on the suggested improvement actions from the previous report

and this cycles improvement actions are all in areas in which the teachers are already actively engaged. Overall, it was a very positive experience. Congratulations to our Kindergarten!

We will set up a display of the report and our breakdown of it in the corridor outside the kindergarten office shortly, along with a copy of our Strategic Plan for kindergarten which incorporates the ERO findings. Please feel free to take an interest and ask us about it.

Alida on behalf of the Kindergarten Teachers

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

We meet on Tuesdays after drop-off in the playgroup room. If you have some spare time and enjoy handwork, join us for a lovely social time. 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.***

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Basketball: 2degrees Girls Got Game *A fun and welcoming programme designed just for girls in Y5-8 to build skills, confidence and friendships through basketball. It's the perfect way to get active, learn the game and enjoy being part of a supportive environment.* Females in Y5-8 , \$50 for 5 weeks, Begins Sun 24 May 9:00am to 10:00am Edgar Centre, Dunedin

<https://membership.mygameday.app/regofrm.cgi?formID=121026>

BNZ Kiwi Hoops: *The ideal introduction to basketball for children in Y1-6! Across six weeks, kids will learn the FUNdamentals in a setting that focuses on games-based activities, movement and enjoyment of the game.* Children in Y1-6 \$50 for 5 weeks Begins Sun 24 May 9:00am to 10:00am Edgar Centre, Dunedin

<https://membership.mygameday.app/regofrm.cgi?formID=121025>

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International Youth Initiative Program We would like to share that the applications for the 19th edition of YIP are now open. YIP is an Anthroposophically inspired 10-month residential, holistic education program in societal entrepreneurship for 18–28 year-olds. Surrounded by the beautiful natural sceneries in Ytterjärna, Sweden, young people from different countries come to encounter not only each other and the world, but also themselves. YIP aims to strengthen young people's capacity to take personal and collective initiative in the face of current global realities and to find their authentic task in the world. Participants live and learn together to explore the current challenges of our time, grow their personal awareness as well as their ability to work together. They meet inspiring individuals who are working on the cutting edge of finding creative and future orientated solutions to the complexity of the difficulties we see in the world in the realm of governance and activism, food sovereignty and initiative and initiation and much, much more.

The final deadline to submit an application for YIP19 is the 15th of June, 2026. Apply now through the provided link: <https://yip.se/application/> For more information, please visit our [website](#) or email us at info@yip.se!

Children's Anxiety: Talk and Q&A (27th May 7.30pm-8.30pm). We're excited to share an upcoming event. We welcome enquiries from families or schools regarding education support for ākonga who are too unwell to attend their regular school. As part of our community outreach programme, Southern Health School is extending an invitation to the wider community for our upcoming parent webinar. Free Webinar for Parents and Caregivers Date: Wednesday 27 May. Time: 7.30pm – 8.30pm Join us to hear from Catherine Gallagher, a highly respected Clinical Psychologist based in Christchurch. The session will include: A 40-minute presentation. Time for questions and answers Please note that, due to contract agreements, the session will not be recorded. We encourage parents and caregivers to attend live and bring along any questions they may have.

	<p>Free to good homes: The school has a number of old wooden desks that need to be rehomed. If you, or anyone you know, would like one, please let the office know.</p>
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Steiner Education Open Day

Education
free of digital
devices

A holistic
child
centered
curriculum

Seamlessly providing for
playgroup, kindy,
primary and intermediate
years




Open Day August 6th

School Tour 9:30am Kindergarten Talk 10:45

Come and learn more about our school and kindergarten!

Dunedin Rudolf Steiner School

Aotearoa | New Zealand
Learning with head, heart and hands

www.dunedinsteiner.nz

