

FROM THE WST OFFICE

Yes folks its Pledge time again!

This week pledge forms will go out to all families. When you fill them and return them you:

1) allow us to determine what we can deliver to the children in 2018.

This includes numbers of teachers, technicians and support staff, affecting our classroom programs, our learning and therapeutic support, and the outdoor farm and bush classroom programs.

2) confirm your child's place in class for 2018.

With waiting lists on all classes this is very, very important. If you are considering a shift please just let us know of the possibility and do share with the class teachers also.

The WST is committed to delivering the highest quality Waldorf education possible and the level of pledged contributions committed to by our community, in either money and/or deeds, is the controlling factor.

Our pledge funding system is a key aspect of our school's special character and it's important to know and remind ourselves that if - and where money is not possible, then deeds can offer the children a great deal too. We are all responsible for what is created and provided for the children of the Tauranga Waldorf School.

For example, if four parents donate one afternoon cleaning per week, we could potentially employ a teacher aide to help children who struggle with behaviour or learning, and take some of the strain off our wonderful class teachers. Please consider carefully, as you fill out your 2018 form, because you are helping shape the present and future of the children of our village.

Marlis for the Finance Office and Louise for the WST.



Just one of our rich curriculum special character experiences – Class 6 Medieval Feast



Board of Trustees
(The basic MOE education)

Ministry of Education Funding is dependent on student numbers and is delivered via a formula.

- ✓ An entitlement of teachers calculated by the MOE on student numbers
- ✓ Contribution towards administration
- ✓ Contribution towards Cyclical maintenance
- ✓ Contribution towards heat light and water
- ✓ Contribution towards cleaners, caretakers
- ✓ Relieving Teachers
- ✓ Special Education Grant
- ✓ ICT funding
- ✓ Some funded teacher aides
- ✓ Base funding per child
- ✓ Kiwisport
- ✓ Furniture and equipment allowance

N.B Integrated schools are not eligible for any capital funding so the per student amount is much lower than that enjoyed by State schools of comparative size. Under the integration act our proprietors are required to deliver an education of comparable standard



Where Learning is Natural
Te ao turoa o te akoranga

Waldorf Schools (Bay of Plenty) Trust
(What makes us a Waldorf School)

Donations are received by the WST from parents/ caregivers as part of their special character relationship to the school.

- ✓ Special character teachers
- ✓ Over entitlement teachers
- ✓ Special character teacher aides
- ✓ Over entitlement teacher aides
- ✓ Waldorf learning programs – Te Arawhetau, Te Arakura, plays, music
- ✓ Waldorf Learning resources and consumables
- ✓ Special character Professional learning and development
- ✓ Kindergarten staffing & curriculum resourcing for all six year olds who sit outside the normal ECE funding
- ✓ Additional administration support for School
- ✓ Administration of WST, OSCAR, KINDERGARTEN, PLAYGROUP
- ✓ Membership of Association of Proprietors Integrated Schools
- ✓ Membership of Federation of Steiner/ Waldorf Schools
- ✓ Property Maintenance
- ✓ BOT Cyclical Maintenance shortfall
- ✓ BOT Heat, light and water shortfall
- ✓ Repayment of Loans
- ✓ Modernisation projects
- ✓ New metres projects.
- ✓ The farm and gardens, wetlands.

Innovation Sustainability
Excellence



FROM THE OFFICE

Whooping Cough

Hopefully you received a letter from the school office this week regarding a case of Whooping Cough. We mention it again as we do not wish to cause alarm but merely to keep you informed and emphasise the importance of remaining alert and seeking appropriate professional help.

Attendance

Just a reminder as we come to the end of term and children are feeling run down, tired and sick, that we ask you to please report absences by 9:30am. You can send a message via our app, text or leave a voicemail on the school phone. It really helps us save time not to have to chase parents but more importantly for safety of our children we need to know who is here and who is not as soon as possible each morning so in the event of an emergency the children are all accounted for. Our thanks for your help with this, end of term is really tiresome for parents too!

TRIATHLON

Kia ora whānau

For as long as I have been at Tauranga Waldorf School classes one to seven have gone to the end of the year Triathlon at Sapphire Springs. Of course back in those early years, classes 1 -7 was often not more than 40 children. Classes 3-7 competed in the triathlon using parents to make up the teams and classes 1-2 had their own Fun Day games. Everyone swam together in the three pools and the children had a great deal of fun. With the roll growth of the last years, many things have changed and we began to notice we had outgrown the event in the old format. Safety has become an ever-growing concern, especially for the little ones.

To maintain the fun day feeling of old, but to make sure our precious kids stay safe, we've decided to break up the event into two parts. Thank you to those who fed in their worries, it's helped us solidify the concerns we were already having as teachers and propelled us towards a solution.

Classes 4-7 will participate in the triathlon at the Katikati venue as usual, have a picnic and swim on **Thursday 7th December** – permission slips out this week.

Classes 1-3 and Te Arakura will go to Memorial Park for Fun Day games, a picnic and a swim at the Memorial Pool on **Wed 6th December** - permission slips and gear list will come out this week.

We hope this can work for you all and that having the different days will mean that if you are willing or able to support your children at the events you won't have to choose one over the other. We staff are feeling that whatever is lost by this change will be more than made up for by the reduction in stress for the adult supervisors and we're keen to see, with increased safety attended to, what new quality can occur out of this for all the children. I am sure one way or the other everything will work out fine.

Arohanui

Long term teacher Sheryl Jenkins

BOT SURVEY

Thank you to all school parents who have taken the time to complete the Board of Trustees survey which was emailed out last week.

A reminder for those who have not yet completed the survey to please do so at your earliest convenience, and if you did not receive the link via email please let the office know. This survey is a valuable way to voice your opinion on school proceedings and your input is greatly appreciated.



2018 TEACHER PLACEMENTS

For those of you dying in anticipation, a reminder that teacher placements for 2018 will be announced in the first Wednesday Window of December, which will be the 13th. While this may feel a little late this year, we will be sticking to our schedule to ensure that all the teachers and classes get to derive maximum enjoyment and benefit from their year together and will look to keeping this later announcement date in the future.

BUS ALERT

Does your child catch the bus to or from school? Please do not alarm your child but talk to them about stranger danger as we were notified of an incident in the city this morning where a child was approached at a bus stop and invited to get into a stranger's car. Please remind your children not to accept lifts off strangers and where possible stay with your children until they are safely on the bus.

FROM THE KINDERGARTEN

Please find below the links for 2 interesting articles on child development studies, the first discussing the importance of chores and their influence on building successful adults, and the second on the value of learning persistence.

www.pdhq.co.nz/sn17/?mc_cid=dd8a0587f8&mc_eid=5f9102dea0

www.theconversation.com/babies-can-learn-the-value-of-persistence-by-watching-grownups-stick-with-a-challenge-84327

NOTICES

Produce Swap

To be held in the cow shed court yard Tuesday 5th December after drop off. Please bring your surplus produce to trade with another family. Any questions please contact Jodi Keet 021330506

Fair 2017

Remember what a cool day it was? Please follow the link below to our website to view a video clip compiled by C7 Lola Smart's father, Aaron (thank you Aaron, we really appreciate it!) It's a really neat video that captures the fun and essence of the day. See if you can spot yourself!

www.waldorftga.school.nz/about/resources/media

Christmas Carol Evening

Come along and join us for a Christmas carol evening in the Whare on Monday the 18th of December at 6:30pm. There will be a picnic on the grass outside beforehand, so come earlier and bring along your picnic blanket, some nibbles and your best singing voices! Any enquiries please contact Dennis De Monchy – dennisdemonchy@gmail.com

Lost Property

We still have a lot of lost property still unclaimed from the fair, including plates, Tupperware and clothing. If you are missing anything please check our lost property outside the Cowshed before the end of term. Any unclaimed property will be donated to charity at the end of the year.

DATES FOR TERM FOUR

Friday 1st December

Monday 4th December

Wednesday 6th December

Thursday 7th December

Monday 11th December

Tuesday 12th December

Thursday 14th December

Friday 15th December

Class 2 Park Trip

Class 4 violin concert 2pm

Classes 0 – 3 Fun Day at Memorial Park

Classes 4 – 7 Triathlon at Sapphire Springs

Class 7 Odyssey

Class 1 2018 Parents Evening

Rose Graduation Ceremony

Shepherds Play – Kindergarten performance 9am

Shepherds Play – Te Arakura – C6 11am

Shepherds Play – C7 and community (all welcome) 12pm

Last day of term. School finishes 1pm