

FEBRUARY 7TH 2018



WEDNESDAY WINDOW

COMING EVENTS

Wed 7 Feb	Class 3 Parent Evening 7.30pm
Thurs 8 Feb	Class 1 Parent Evening 7pm
Fri 9 Feb	Class 5 Parent Evening 3pm
Tues 27 Feb	Kindergarten Parent Evening 6.30pm
Fri 30 March	Good Friday – no school or kindergarten today

KIA ORA WHANAU

The warmest of welcomes either, back or to, the 2018 Tauranga Waldorf School year. We've had a very gentle and civilized start to our year with two short weeks but from today, we are into the year in earnest!

Joining us are a number of new families, nearly all transferring from other Waldorf schools both in NZ and internationally. I'd ask you all to remember back to when you were new and when you see new faces please introduce yourselves. While all Waldorf schools have things in common we also develop very differently and being new folk is rarely completely comfortable.

We also have two new staff joining us in the school this year. Below you will see photos of people I'd love you to introduce yourself too and help enjoy all the treasures our country school in the city has to offer.

Mary T-J



Hei kaikki, hello there. For those of you who've not met me yet, I'm Laura Jarnefelt, a new teacher graduate with a background in curative education. Before I was an educator, I was a

Steiner kid myself attending Steiner schools in both Finland and NZ attending from Kinder through to the end of Class 12. I recently married another Steiner kid too, who I met here in NZ at Taikura.

Kia ora, John Davidson here.



I started teaching in the Christchurch Rudolf Steiner School in 1982. Since that first Class 1-8, I have taught and led in primary and secondary schools in Australia and been involved in teacher training.

For some time, I had been considering a move back to New Zealand and was staying with friends in the country when I received a message from a school in Auckland offering a position there. I was also talking with people about working in China where 85 Steiner schools have started up in the last 13 years! One evening a text came through saying a school had a sudden teacher vacancy and was I available? I looked up their website and was very impressed with the newsletters and the strategic plan. I rang Mary up and spoke with her. She said why not come and visit and see how you find it and then decide. And here I am.

The school is wonderful and the class four children are too. My car however is still at Melbourne airport, and I only brought enough clothes for a few days so tomorrow evening I will go back to Melbourne, rescue the car, get a few more bits and pieces and be back.



FROM THE OFFICE

Great to see all the familiar faces back at school and kindergarten these past few days, and also some new faces, in fact quite a few of them! So, a new school year and some new families on board seems like a good opportunity to share some reminders to keep us all ticking along in 2018.

ATTENDANCE

If your child is going to be absent please be sure to let the office know before 9am. You can leave a voicemail, email or send a message through the school app. You are welcome to message teachers by email but please ensure that the office is copied into the message, as busy mornings concentrating on your child, means a teacher will not be able to share messages with the office. Your help with this is so important as in the case of emergencies, or civil defence situations, the office will be the first place to establish the whereabouts of your child. It also just saves lots of time and energy each morning establishing where children are.

HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME

If you have an unavoidable absence for your school child (or 6 year old Kindergarten child) then please see Cathy in the office for a form to fill in and have your class teacher sign it. (The form is available on our website too) This helps teachers with their class planning and in particular with plays, to know who is going to be absent. It will also enable an opportunity to discuss with your child's teacher the absence and what work, if any, they need to continue during their absence. For Kindergarten children, the process is to liaise with Dominique and your Kindergarten teacher regarding any planned absences.

SCHOOL APP

For some of the new faces around the community, you may not be aware that we have a school app, please go to your app or play store and search for Tauranga Waldorf School and download it. It is a handy app to have for ease of reference to the newsletters, school events and contact email addresses. We also use the app to send out alerts about events in school.

TEXT ALERTS

We use the school mobile phone to send text alerts to parents and usually it is just to one parent of each family (unless a family is co-parenting then it will go to both). Please let us know if you have a preference for who the text should go to, often it goes to mum but with lots of busy working mums out there (The Prime Minister will soon get a taste of this, being a working mum that is, not our text alerts!) maybe it is best to go to dad or a grandparent for your family. Let me know and I will amend our records.

WEDNESDAY WINDOW

The school newsletter is published every fortnight and again, having listened to parent feedback and to be in line with our commitment to recycle, reuse and reduce, along with many other schools in NZ, our newsletter will now be available as a digital copy only. If you absolutely do not have access to emails/school app/website, then please let the office know and they can print you a copy. This is going to reduce our printing costs incredibly (which means more money for valuable resources), but also give us an enormous sense of well-being knowing we are doing our bit to save paper! Thank you for your support with this.

PLEDGE FORMS

Our budget needs you! Our committed and wonderful college of teachers have returned to school refreshed, enthusiastic and bursting with plans and ideas for your children. Until we have our budget confirmed, we cannot give teachers permission to invest in their ideas. Pledge forms were due back to school at the end of Term 4, which not only helped us prepare our budget but confirmed your commitment to the school's special character and your child's place in the school. There are still pledge forms outstanding so if yours is stuck in the bottom of a bag or under a pile of papers on the kitchen bench along with your good intentions to get it returned to us, you can download a copy from our website (...did I mention our fabulous website? Go on, go take a look!) or pick up another copy from outside the office.

Thank you!

PARENT FEEDBACK

The summer wasn't just long, sunny and lazy days for us in the office, we've been listening to you over the year and spent some time over the break working out how we can fix some of the valid points and issues that were raised by you, our community.

Firstly, communicating festivals and events. Up until now, you may not have been a regular visitor to our website, but with the help of Maxwell & Harry Lee's mum & dad, we have been working on improvements and how you can use it as a tool to help with school life. There is now a calendar of events that are regularly updated and you can download the events into your own digital calendars depending on your device. (Events are also loaded onto the school app so be sure to check on there too if you prefer this platform)

In the coming months, we hope to utilise the website more and develop a parent resource page with articles and information about Waldorf education that you may find useful and interesting as you walk the Waldorf journey with your children.

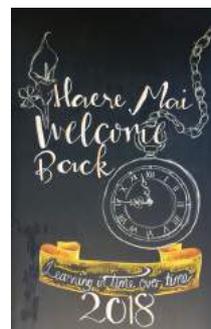
A common issue raised by parents last year was the issue of photographs, the concerns being multi layered with firstly the school obtaining authority to take and share photographs/video clips of the children whether it be to promote our school fair or in a news story/social media and secondly how to honour the Waldorf way of a "no photograph policy" for festivals but enable us to capture some moments for parents to enjoy and share at a later date, allowing you to be free to enjoy and be completely immersed in the essence of the festival and your child's performance.

Coming home this week with each child will be an information form for you to complete and return to the office. These forms will be held by the office and classroom teachers and will replace our old yellow cards. As well as your contact details, emergency contact details and medical information it will ask for permission to take photographs of your child and how those will be used. This will avoid mistakes made in the past around this area. Kindergarten will discuss this at the parent evening on February 27th. After the consultation, it will be decided if the current

process of obtaining permission for taking photographs of children for internal use, like 'learning stories', needs to be changed.

With regard to school festival photographs it has been agreed that, as in previous years, photographs will be taken of the children by the school and will be available to be shared, this was often the sticking point with trying to manage our 170 plus families wanting access to the photographs, so once again, utilising our new website and the feedback you have given us, a photo gallery will be set up online which will be password protected for parents use only. Parents will then be able to access the photographs easily and decide as a class group how you want to share those photographs, for example some class groups have set up a drop box for their photographs so that when they leave in class 7 they have a comprehensive set of photographs. What we will not be able to control or police is how parents individually use those photographs. Whilst some families are happy to share pictures on social media, others are not, so we will ask you to use your common sense when sharing the photographs. If you as a parent do not want the risk of your child's photograph being shared, whether it is in our newsletter or downloaded and further shared by a parent, then your remedy is to decline permission for your child to be photographed. Phew, that was a lot to digest, hopefully it makes sense but as always, we are happy to hear from you so please use the communication pathway and let us know what you are thinking!

SCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN TIMES



School Day:

9am start;

11-11.30am Morning Tea;

1-1.45pm Lunch; 3pm school end

Kindergarten Day:

8.45am start; 2.45pm finish unless 1.30pm pick up is arranged

Please ensure children arrive in time to get settled for the day ahead & when the bell goes, they are ready to get started immediately.

Medical appointments are often impossible to schedule, but where possible please try to arrange outside of school times or during a natural break in the day. Please talk to your teachers about arranging extra-curricular activities for children that mean they leave class early on a regular basis, it is disruptive to the child and for the rhythm of the whole class. Our teachers would really appreciate your help with this.

CRAFTY PUKEKO



Is our wee shop outside the office selling a plethora of delights and goods from school stationery to craft items and Weleda Health and Beauty products. We rely on community volunteers to open the shop before and after school.

Thank you to our fantastic parents that turned up week in-week out last year for their effort and enthusiasm to keep the shop open and serving our community we really appreciate it and hope to see your smiling faces back on board this year, however we always need more volunteers.

Please get in touch if you can spare half an hour a week (or even on a roster basis less frequently) to open the shop and provide this invaluable service to our community. It's a great way to meet friends you haven't encountered yet, so if you've been at the school for a while or you are all shiny and new, get in touch with Wendy our co-ordinator who can train you up in no time. You can leave a message via the office.

SPARE FRUIT & PRODUCE

Kindergarten are asking if any parents have spare produce that they could use. If so please drop off to Donna at Autumn Rose. Anne is also looking to source fruit for preserving for classes 3 & 5. Please drop off at the office if you have any spare

CAR PARK ETIQUETTE

Our children's safety is paramount. Please drive slowly and carefully in our school, small children often rush out and do not have road safety on their mind. Parent and child parking spaces outside the office are for parents with very small babies, please remember how time consuming and sometimes stressful it is to get babies in and out of a car.

Don't use these spaces because they are empty and you are running late.

MUSIC LESSONS

Music lessons are available outside of school hours please contact the tutors direct for more information and to arrange tuition for your child.

Robyn Denize	Violin 027 5757043
Therese Ahlers	Cello 027 684 0486
Peg Southy	Guitar 07 544 2469

SPORTS IN TERM 1

Sports forms were sent home with school children from class 3 upwards. Deadline for return is today as team registrations need to be completed by Charlotte our Sports Co-ordinator tomorrow. Any late forms mean a team place cannot be guaranteed. Any sports questions can be directed to Charlotte sports@waldorftga.nz

BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CARE (OSCAR)

Some parents may not be aware that we operate an OSCAR programme at school which is run in line with our Waldorf philosophy and it operates from 7.30am until school/kindy start and after school/kindy until 5.30pm. Children must be 5 to join the programme and there are casual and permanent bookings available. The programme is WINZ subsidized so assistance may be available. Any questions please contact Maria on oscar@waldorftga.nz