

March 7TH 2018



WEDNESDAY WINDOW

COMING EVENTS

- 8 March – Eurythmy Aotearoa Performance
- 9 March – School Photos
- 28 March – Special Character Meeting 9:10am
All Welcome
- 3rd April – Easter Tuesday School Closed,
Kindergarten Open
- 11th April – Founders Meeting
- 13th April – Term 1 ends. School finished 1pm

KIA ORA WHANAU

For many year, until the very end of last year in fact, every afternoon, two older children would come down from school, meet one or other of their parents at Kotahi, the littlest of our kindergarten buildings, and together they would all set to, to clean, care and re-order it.

Gradually over those years, the two children learned where all the playthings and equipment went, and developed a feel for the daily task of putting the room to rights – re-sorting crayons that 3-year olds had slung haphazardly into baskets, finding items tucked behind shelves and in corners. What started out as a way for a family to contribute a

portion of their pledge through deeds, grew into a gift to both the teachers and the children. A donation, it turns out, way beyond any monetary value.

There is something palpably different about caring for a room and the practical task of cleaning. Certainly, the results of caring last considerably longer than the results of removing dirt! The kind of caring that was tangible in the ambience of this room, over those years happened over time and happened in relationship. And the experience we had, of this family preparing the nursery each day for the little ones, brought us such a quality, that we're encouraged to wonder if there are not some other school families who would like to boost their pledge donations and care for other kindergarten rooms, in the same way?

We have begun this year again with many pledge forms outstanding and with yet another decrease in the levels of both money and deeds being committed to from those families who have submitted their forms. While valuing without question and accepting with gratitude anything that is offered by way of donation of money or deeds, towards our community mission to offer a Waldorf education to our young, it is nevertheless daunting for us to consider how we can continue to deliver your expectations of more, while the resources available to achieve this with, becomes less.

Waldorf schools are all about stories. The children are told stories to encourage them to envisage landscapes beyond their own, to help them connect and to know the quality of others. Parents share their stories to encourage and comfort each other. They tell us their children's stories, too, to help us come to know the gifts and challenges of these individual journeys. This week the kindergarten folk asked me to share one of their stories, in the hope that it may inspire.

Nga mihi
Mary T-J



KIA ORA FROM THE WALDORF SCHOOLS TRUST

At our first meeting of the 2018 year held last Friday, we bade farewell to Julian Ketel, an ex-parent and trustee and indeed the Chair of our Trust for as long as most of us can remember. A Steiner boy himself, Julian saw the school from its early days as a private school, through the integration process until his resignation from the beginning of this year. Julian has graciously agreed to maintain his connection with the school in a role as one of the Founders.

Replacing Julian as Chair is another well-known figure, Stephen Lane. Stephen was the Chair of the first three Board of Trustees of our school moving onto the Proprietors Trust in 2012 where he has quietly supported the Trust's endeavors and has agreed to take up the role of Chair for the rest of this year.

A draft budget was also presented at our meeting proposing a number of upgrade and development projects for the year ahead. Some of you will have already seen the deck extension on Class 6, which is planned to include further detail, should funds allow. Additionally, we are hoping to further upgrade our water infrastructure which is woefully inadequate and well overdue. At this stage we are unable to approve the budget as we have a number of pledge forms still outstanding as well as number of nil pledges affecting our potential expenditure for the year. The impact of a reduced contribution rate in 2017, despite increased roll numbers will further impact on what can be delivered to the children as well as in terms of development in the year ahead.

The WST gratefully accepts all donations of both money and deeds and respectfully reminds that while these figures are disappointing, the special character of our school requires us to be committed, individually and collectively to delivering Waldorf education to any parents who truly seek this for their children, with money no barrier. The reality of this situation however is that your donations are the only income that the Trust can use to support the quality of the education your children receive.

If you are interested in the work of the Trust, please feel welcome to attend the Founders Report meeting later in the term.

Nga Mihi
Louise



KIA ORA FROM THE OFFICE

A lot of you will already know that Cathy is away in the UK for the next couple of weeks, so we would like to introduce Sabine who will be filling in, in the Office while Cathy is not here.



SCHOOL EURYTHMY PERFORMANCE THURSDAY:

The Eurythmy Aotearoa Company, on tour through the North Island Waldorf schools currently will be making a whistle-stop in Tauranga to perform for our Class 3-7 children on Thursday. The Trust will be subsidizing the cost of this performance for the children but would love help in meeting the full bill. We are suggesting a koha up to \$5.00 per child but we will gladly accept anything towards this. Please give to class teachers or the office.

SCHOOL PHOTOS

Remember nice clothes and nice smiles at the ready for Friday 9 March 2018 and please make sure you get your forms back too.

FROM THE FARM

Help needed this Saturday 10th March Biodynamic 501 stirring. This preparation is stirred for an hour before sunrise. 501 strengthens the plants' ability to take in the forces that stream to earth from the cosmos. 501 helps balance strong earth and water forces so prevents fungal diseases and increases flavour in our harvest.

Meet: In the shelter at the end of the field

Bring: A backpack sprayer (I have spare)

When: 6am to stir/7am to spray

All welcome. Please come and help and learn more. It's a fun activity.

Anne 0221627709 / 075332282