

Around the traps....

One unique aspect of our special character as a Waldorf school is the cycle of festivals which punctuate our year together and which began in earnest in the last fortnight. Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday, our first celebrations off the mark this year, are observed as festivals of *intention*.

The first has the flavor of carnival or Mardi Gras (which literally means Fat Tuesday) and is a festival of pancake eating and fun games in the Amphitheatre. (The intention being to let off sufficient steam to allow a sharp contrast the very next day with a solemn fireside ceremony in the very same setting.) At our Ash Wednesday festival, the children and teachers choose to focus in the days and weeks leading up to Easter, on aspects of our culture as a class, our community, or ourselves. It is moving to watch *reverence*, one of the spiritual values that we aim to help the children develop over time, growing, as this festival is embedded in the culture of our school.

Sharing our identity as a Waldorf school in the local community has been another focus with our now Class 5 taking part in the decoration of a local hall. Belonging, through positive contribution is an important philosophy underpinning our kaupapa and it feels great to mature to the stage as an organisation and community where we feel able to share.



Pancake Day Antics



Class 6 at Welcome Bay Community Centre with Todd Muller

Our mission as a Waldorf school is to facilitate the development of identity for all our children through delivery of a rich and varied curriculum. Even more specifically our mission is to facilitate the kinds of capacities, which allow that identity to be able to encompass and embrace others.

Seems to me it's been a fine fortnight for seeing this mission in action. Just saying!

Nga Mihi
MaryT-J

Finally, the quality of our learning journey is enhanced immeasurably by our camp and outdoor curriculum. As part of their Geography and Mineralogy Main lesson, Class 6 recently undertook a week long camp at Waikaremoana.

Opportunities to include and be included, support and be supported, challenge and be challenged were richly delivered to this group of nearly teens in a significant threshold experience marking the beginning of their journey together in the intermediate section of our school.



Class 6 Camp

FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

At our first Board meeting of each year, the trustees elect the Chair, approve the delegations it will make to staff, and then individually and collectively re-sign the Code of Conduct which establishes how we will work together and what the community we represent, as well as the staff we employ, can expect from us.

Perhaps even more importantly we set the direction for the year via a ratified Annual Plan/ Charter and Budget. You can find this document which, following on from our first meeting last week has now been submitted to the Ministry on the school's website. You will also find in the Annual Improvement Section, student achievement targets for at risk learners as well as the curriculum development directions that we developed as a result of your feedback. The Charter sets out our mission as a school, describes our values and includes a strategic plan, which refocuses the school around the achievement of our goals.

Please do take the time to look at it, so you understand the basis of the decisions that are made over the next year. The minutes from our meetings are also on the Board page for anyone interested.

Our next meeting will be Week 9 Monday 27 March and I'd just like to remind you that the Board meeting is a public meeting where you are all welcome. We just ask that you call the office so we can ensure meeting papers are available for you and that our venue can accommodate numbers.

On a personal note, I had the pleasure of attending the Class 6 Camp at Waikaremoana. Can I say how proud I was to be part of this group that represented our school so proudly in the way they worked in as a group and handled themselves through the challenges that were presented to them through the camp and as good ambassadors of our school to the wider public. Well done to the staff, parents and children who made the camp such a success.

Kā kite
Peter Flint.

FROM THE KINDERGARTEN

KINDERGARTEN EASTER FESTIVAL

Kindergarten parents please make a note of the following arrangements for the last day of term, Thursday 13th April. Children will arrive as normal in the morning. Morning tea will be at 11am. At 11.30 there will be a story in The Whare. Parents are invited to attend the story and then children will return to Kindergarten to present gifts and Hot Cross Buns. School and Kindergarten closes at 1pm. Any questions please see your Kindergarten teacher.

The Kindergarten is in need of a new freezer! Do you have one lying around and taking up space? If so and you would like to donate to the kindergarten please see Dominique. Thank you!

FROM THE OFFICE

As an environmentally conscious school, we are trying our best to cut down our paper consumption! Our greatest use of paper continues to be the Wednesday Window each fortnight and so we are asking if you really need a paper copy of our newsletter? The Wednesday Window is available to view on our school website, on our school app and a link is also emailed out to families to be viewed online. If you would like to help us in our endeavour to cut down our paper usage, please let the office know if you would like to discontinue receiving a hard paper copy of the newsletter in favour of one of our other forms of distribution. The planet thanks you for your consideration!

CLASS 6 CAMP 2017



PANCAKE DAY 2017



Parents Produce Swap

Has relocated to a new time and venue. It is now being held on Tuesday mornings 9.00-9.30am in the Cowshed Courtyard. Please talk to Jodi Keet if you have questions about the swap. 021 330506.



OSCAR (Before and After School Care)

Just a reminder to all parents and new parents alike that a before and after school program is offered. Each school morning from 7.30am and after school until 5.30pm. If you would like more details please contact Maria by email oscar@waldorftga.nz or you can call/text the Oscar number 027 2276121.

CRAFTY PUKEKO

Lots of Easter goodies now in stock. We still need more volunteers to open to shop, could you volunteer an hour a week? No experience needed, training given. It's a great way to meet new people. If you previously put your name forward to Wendy please get in touch again. Call Wendy 021 808452.



Class 5 Friday Lunch Fundraiser

A reminder that Class 5 are offering Sushi and Juicies for Friday lunch times. Orders and cash must be handed in on Wednesday morning to your class teacher. \$3 for Sushi and \$2 for Juicies.

Lost Property – we still have a picnic blanket and a watch handed in after raft day...are these items yours? See Cathy in the office.

EASTER FELTING WORKSHOP

Learn how to make a beautiful felted lady for your easter table. This is a great opportunity to learn how to needle felt or expand your skills. Join us at 7:30 Thursday 9th March at 12 Greenvale Place, Welcome Bay (off Waikiti Road). \$20 per person. Bring your own needle or purchase for \$3 on the night. Limited spaces so please book. Tea and cake provided. To book or for more information please contact Jodi on jodi.keet@gmail.com.



DATES FOR TERM ONE

Wednesday 8th March

Friday 10th March

Thursday 16th March

Friday 17th March

Wed 22nd – Fri 24th March

Thursday 23rd March

Friday 24th March

Tuesday 28th March

Friday 31st March

Mon 3rd – Fri 7th April

Friday 7th April

Thursday 13th April

Class 7 Parents Evening 7pm

Class 7 Sailing 9:30am – 12:30pm

Class 1 Parents Evening (see class teacher for details)

Class 7 Sailing 9:30am – 12:30pm

Class 4 Camp

Class 2 Parents Evening (see class teacher for details)

Class 5 Estuary Trip

Class 7 Sailing 9:30am – 12:30 pm

Kindergarten Parents Evening 5:30 in respective rooms

Class 7 Sailing 9:30am – 12:30pm

Class 7 Odyssey

School Photos

Easter Assembly

Last day of Term