

Some years ago now we identified that 'community' is one of our central values. We wrote about it in our vision, named it explicitly in our school and kindergarten charters and plastered it on the wall outside the office *Learning together, learning from each other*.

It seems to me that expressions of 'community' are very visible during our festivals, at our annual fair and at termly class parent evenings. But our concept of community is much wider than that and is operating at multiple levels at any given moment. The sort of less visible but really important aspects of community that I'm thinking about occur when:



- We work together to support children to resolve differences that inevitably arise from time to time with their peers. This might be really informal such as play-dates and sometimes the school is involved, sometimes not.
- When we share knowledge and experience with each other while we deal with the many challenges that arise in parenting and teaching our young eg healthy eating, strategies for negotiating boundaries in extra curricular activities, access to social or entertainment media or ICT or children's illness, learning or emotional difficulties. Again this happens formally and informally across many arenas.
- We fundraise, and fund and realize our special character through money and deeds.
- When we support each other times of challenge eg when someone, child, parent or staff members are ill, have an accident, trauma, grief or loss.

In the last week I had the privilege of working with the parents and class teacher of a group of children who had wandered quite far from a path our community would expect or wish them to traverse.

It's most people's nightmare- fronting up to a meeting to talk about how a child they are responsible for or related to has broken rules, hurt or harmed another. Emotions can bubble and run high, with some mix of defensiveness, disappointment, dread, suspicion and anxiety, present in all. And when I say all, I mean parents and teachers *and the principal*. But it is amazing what can be achieved when we hold back on judgments and blame, ask open questions, own and test our assumptions, act inclusively and in good faith for the good of the whole, knowing that fair is not everyone getting the same but everyone getting what they need.

I believe that this is an example of 'community' at its best- when a group of adults comes together to represent and protect their own children's interests (of course) but with the wider view also, to protect the interests and mana of all.

I came out of a potentially fraught situation the other night, just thrilled to once again experience the 'wisdom' of community and proud to have a part in our community in particular. I loved remembering that we don't have to agree on everything, that we can never all have the same experiences or beliefs, or expectations, we just have to find mutual aims and decide on our next steps. And that can happen when we talk to each other.

I look forward to sharing with you in the days and weeks to come, more of the plan this group of parents have begun to shape for helping all our children be safer and allowing everyone of them, their full share of childhood.



Na naku noa
Mary

FROM THE OFFICE

PHOTOS

Due to a clash with Class 7 Odyssey and Class 3 Camp, the school photos will now be held on June 23rd.

WEDNESDAY WINDOW

Thanks to everyone who has already let us know that they would like to receive only a digital copy of our newsletter. We are trying our best to cut down our paper consumption and would love your help with this. The newsletter is available to view on our school website, on our school app and a link is sent via email to families to view online. If you would like to help us in our endeavour, please let the office know that you would like to discontinue receiving a hard copy. Many thanks.

ATTENDANCE

There are several ways you can let the office know if your child is sick or will be absent from school. You can text, email, call or use the school app or if your child will be away for an extended period please fill in an absentee form at the office. Please report all absences by 9am.

WALDORF 100 – THE FILM

You may have seen the link sent via email, but if not please take the time to have a look at this awesome short film "Learn to Change the World" based on our Waldorf/Steiner philosophy and education.

https://youtu.be/wfec6eF4l_4



FROM THE WST

Following on from the Board ratifying their 2017 Annual plan last month I am happy to tell you that the WST has been able to do the same. As an introduction for those of you who are new to the community, the Board of Trustees manages the funds that it receives from the Ministry of Education, which provide a basic education program.

Alongside and enhancing that, with your support, the Waldorf Schools (BOP) Trust is able to deliver on our philosophy and create a wholesome, healthy and well resourced Special Character learning environment for the children. Therefore the plan which you can find on the schools website and school app, relies totally on receiving funds and deeds pledged from our community and some years needs to be modified and adapted depending on the extent to which that occurs.

The Proprietor's Trust is committed to funding through a gifting system which allows us as a whole community to carry those families whose financial situations are or become difficult with the delivery of care and other special character programs for the children in no way tied to a parents ability to contribute.

The Trust would like to warmly thank you for signaling your intentions for funding in 2017 and is grateful. Also to a number of past parents, grandparents and alumni who continue to contribute long after there is any benefit to them personally and, who in so doing, further enhance our ability to deliver to your children.

Lousie Gawn

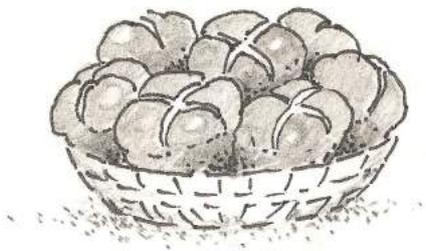
FROM THE FINANCE OFFICE

We are getting ready to prepare the Tax Donation receipts for 2017 – 2017.

Thank you all so much for your support over the last year. With your ongoing support you have helped offering the Special Character Education to all the children attending Tauranga Waldorf School. You will be receiving a Tax Donation certificate from us mid to end April. Once printed, it can be used to claim your tax rebate from the IRD. The rebate is 33.33% of all your tax-deductible donations. Just a reminder that all donations received by 31.3.2017 will be included in this Tax Donation receipt, and you can claim the rebate. For further information please visit www.ird.govt.nz

Kind regards
Marlis (Pledge Manager)

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.

FROM THE FARM

BD 501 STIRRING ON EASTER SUNDAY

Anne needs your help, please come and learn! This biodynamic preparation is sprayed on before sunrise. It strengthens our plants by bringing the light forces.

When: Sunday 16th April

Time: 6:30am to stir for an hour then spray the school

Bring: A sprayer if you have one

Meet: In the shelter at the end of the field.

Easter egg hunt afterwards. Please come and help. Subject to weather. For more information please contact Anne:
02216227709



PRODUCE SWAP

A reminder that the produce swap is held on Tuesday mornings 9.00-9.30am in the Cowshed Courtyard. Please talk to Jodi Keet if you have questions 021 330506.



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 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. Please insure orders are in by Wednesday morning to avoid disappointment, final numbers are collected early in the day so late orders cannot be accepted.



LOST PROPERTY

We still have a rug in our lost property from Raft Day. Is it yours? Please see Cathy in the office to collect.

Supporting success in your school.

If you are a parent, staff member or member of the school community and you draw down a new ASB home loan of \$250,000 or more, ASB will donate to your chosen participating school:

\$500

ASB lending criteria and terms apply. Fees may apply. To be eligible for this donation your new home loan application must be received, approved and then documented in a facility agreement, along with the completion of a school donation voucher, between 1 January 2017 and 30 June 2017. A minimum of 20% equity is required in the security property provided to ASB. This home loan offer is only available on loans secured by an owner-occupied residential property. Only one donation will be given per customer. Donations will be made by ASB on behalf of the customer to the chosen school upon full draw down of the new home loan. This offer excludes loans for business purposes and bridging.

ASB Bank Limited 56380 16785 0117

Tauranga Waldorf School now has a School App!

Go to the App Store on your Apple or Android device and Search Tauranga Waldorf School to download the App to your phone or tablet.

School Apps™

DATES FOR TERM ONE

Wed 22nd - Fri 24th March

Thursday 23rd March

Friday 24th March

Tuesday 28th March

Friday 31st March

Mon 3rd – Fri 7th April

Thursday 6th April

Thursday 13th April

Class 4 Camp

Class 2 Parents Evening (see class teacher for details)

Class 5 Estuary Trip

Class 7 Sailing 9:30am - 12:30pm

Class 7 - 12hr Relay

Kindergarten Parents Evening 5:30pm In respective rooms

Class 7 sailing 9:30am – 12:30pm

Class 7 Odyssey

Class 3 Camp

Easter Assembly

Last day of Term – 1pm Finish