

Kia ora whanau

A very obvious perk of my job is my office. Perched just above the kindergarten wairere and looking out over the kindergarten garden to the Wilderland below, I am endlessly distracted and intrigued by small people absorbed in discovering nature and each other. As I walk through the school, these carefully tended beginnings extend onwards, apparent in ways of being and learning that consistently delight and move me.



Examples of rich curriculum and engrossed and engaged learning have been jumping out at me all over the place in the last weeks and I am reminded that these things don't happen easily or in a vacuum. That while thematic hands-on experiential learning is extremely effective and engaging for students, it is also demanding, confronting and exhausting for teachers. Yet I continue to see creative and dedicated teachers extending and deepening the Tauranga Waldorf Learning Journey.



For example, Class 4 has historically been the time for the first 'away' camp and has for many years now, held at Ngatuhua Lodge and allowing the children a hands on experience which connects them to the Local Geography Main Lesson of that year. This year, however, building on the Farming and Harvesting and Shelter Main Lessons of Class 3, a group of 28 lucky children headed off to a much less salubrious environment.

Connecting to their The Way We Were Main Lesson, the children built shelters, washed in the stream, cooked over the fire and collected water. They gained a taste of just how life was in earlier times, including the different qualities of time and space (and childhood itself).

Hands-on or experiential learning is a very natural and intuitive way to learn, actively involving many different senses and stimulating multiple forms of intelligence. But it can actually only happen when devoted teachers are backed and supported by whanau to deliver these learning experiences to children, free to receive them.

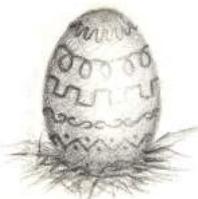


Oh wait – that's exactly the vision described in our school charter (which you can find on the home page of our website).

So thrilling to see it in action. Yay! Well done all of us.

Nga mihi
Mary T-J

FROM THE KINDERGARTEN



KINDERGARTEN EASTER FESTIVAL- 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 for a farewell. Please leave silence or as close to as possible. The Kindergarten closes at 1pm. Any questions please see your

Rose Ring Kindergartens will continue to operate Wednesday, Thursday and Friday both weeks of the Easter holidays under the name Rambling Rose. Children to be dropped and collected at the Michael Hut and will spend most of the day at the back of the school grounds. Please provide a lunchbox including morning and afternoon tea. Please be aware that the teachers present may change from day to day. We have raincoats and overalls for everyone present but please make sure your child is dressed for the weather and include a spare change of clothes in their bags.

Please note that a Special Character meeting will be held on April 12th in the Cowshed at 1:45pm. All welcome to attend.

FROM THE OFFICE

WEDNESDAY WINDOW - We have had a great response to our bid to decrease paper usage on the Wednesday Window. So far we have managed to cut more than 20 paper copies thanks to families opting to receive the newsletter digitally. The Wednesday Window 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.

LOST PROPERTY - Please take the time to check lost property. Anything left behind at the end of term will be donated to charity.

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



FROM THE CRAFTY PUKEKO

A reminder that we have lots of Easter goodies in stock as well as new essential oils! Drop by the Crafty Pukeko and take a look!

DATES FOR TERM ONE

Mon 3rd – Fri 7th April

Thursday 6th April

Wednesday 12th April

Thursday 13th April

Monday 1st May

Class 7 Odyssey

Class 3 Camp

Special Character Meeting – 1:45pm in Cowshed

Easter Assembly

Last day of Term – 1pm finish, Please leave quietly.

No market this week.

First day of Term 2