



Family Lantern Festival 2017

Our Lantern Festival is one of our most loved community festivals for both Kindergarten and School children and on Friday 9th June we will all again walk the Lantern Path through the school and kindergarten grounds together.

Over the last years while we have grown as a community, festival logistics have become increasingly complicated, and we have had to modify aspects of our evening to keep the mood of beauty, peace, stillness and joy alive for the children. One of the most important changes we have made is to make this a family festival where we ask families to walk and stay together at all times. Another is that we have concentrated on it being predominantly a visual festival. If all parents take an assertive role in keeping their own children with them and helping create and maintain the mood of reverence in the hushed walk in the dark, then we'll contribute to the experience of every child and every family in our immediate and wider community.

As you walk with your lanterns, you'll find places where you and your family can stop to sing, tableaux to wonder at and in dark corners, beautiful grottos and an opportunity to experience inner depths of soul as we journey literally and figuratively, into the darkest time of year.

Prior to the festival:

A song sheet of the Lantern Festival songs will come home with this newsletter. If you are new to the community and would like help to learn these, they will be sung at the Community Morning Circle outside the Cowshed each morning from now until next week.

Children will bring their lanterns home from school on or before Friday, and are to bring them back to the festival again that night. Extra matches or lighters are a great help and are always needed.

On the Festival Night, itself:

Lantern Festival will be between 6.20pm and 7.30pm. You can arrive with your family as you wish in that time frame but note that the entrance closes at 7.20pm

Please park your car close to the school either on Ranginui Road or at Utopia Heights. No cars will be allowed onto the school grounds (teachers' cars only will be parked at the rear of the school).

The Lantern Walk starts at the bottom of the school drive, where it meets Welcome Bay Road. This is the best place to light your lanterns. Please do keep track of each other as you walk, last year we had unaccompanied children running through the walk, which was very disturbing and unsafe, so we are keen for this not to happen again.

Walk at the pace that suits your family and enjoy the experience of the Lantern Walk. You may even choose to walk the route again, but please do remain together as a group and all leave together at the same time too.

At the end of your walk, think about going up to Utopia Heights and get a last view of the festival's twinkling lights. It really is quite something from up there and is a lovely lasting image for the children to carry with them.

We very much look forward to seeing you there.

From the Festival Group – Suzanne, Jo, Michael and Louise.

Kindergarten inspirations - Rhythms big and small.

In between the concepts of rigid routine and random chaos there is a naturally occurring balance that we call rhythm. Rhythm is one of our kindergarten's secret ingredients. It is everywhere in nature and is for us, almost literally the secret of life – the wonder of rhythm is that it can be 'precise' without being 'exact.'



Beyond the more obvious 'larger' repeating kindergarten daily, weekly and seasonal rhythms, a useful way of characterizing healthy rhythm is to think about the alternate qualities of concentration and expansion. We Kindergarteners talk of 'breathing in and breathing out' and work hard to use these ideas to arrange the varied pace of the children's day. It's far easier to talk about than it is to achieve, but in an 'Inhaling or breathing-in' phase the children's attention is directed to an activity that basically relates them to themselves. For little children each breathing-in period (drawing, water painting, eating...) is quite short because little children can generally only concentrate for short periods of time. In an exhaling or breathing-out period, the child relates mainly to the surrounding world (play, free running etc.).



For each breathing-in period the children need a breathing-out period and so the pattern of the day is established. This rhythm is something that helps anywhere, even on holiday. It starts with finding out when the children breathe-in and when they breathe-out and when the children are in the breathing-in period, making sure we are present, so the child feels *ah, here I feel you, you are here for me*. After that, there can be a breathing out time where you do not have to be so present and attentive and usually the children accept this because they have the sense of having had sufficient.

The bigger returning rhythms of the Kindergarten lift the children from wondering what will come next, what will be expected. Both these, and the smaller breathing in and breathing out rhythms signal to them – here you are safe and you can trust in what you'll find here. Working with rhythm helps children to live with change, to find their place in the world, and to begin to understand the past, present and future. It provides a very real foundation for the understanding of time - what has gone before and what will follow - and helps them to relate to the natural and human world.

FROM THE OFFICE

- Parent Initiative – Clothing stall at market. Next Friday market (9th June) we'll have a stall for a clothing swap. Kids and baby clothes only at this stage. Please bring along any clothes that may have been outgrown and are sitting unloved in the drawer at home. Please contact Mariana (C1). See you next Friday!
- Please remember that school children are to wear white on Tuesday 6th June for the Whitsun Festival
- Thank you to everyone who has opted to receive the newsletter via email, website or app. If you would like to help us with our endeavor to cut down paper usage please let the office know that you would like to stop receiving a hard copy of the Wednesday Window. Many thanks!
- Class 5 will be continuing their Friday Lunch fundraiser. Sushi \$3 and cake \$2 will replace last term's Juicies. A gluten free option will be available. Please remember to bring cash into school to place your order on Wednesday mornings ready for lunch on Friday. Late orders cannot be processed so please don't miss out! Class 5 thank you for your support.

DATES FOR TERM TWO

Monday 5th June
Tuesday 6th June
Wednesday 7th June
Friday 9th June
Monday 12th June
Friday 23rd June
Tuesday 4th July
Friday 7th July

Queen's Birthday – School Closed
School Whitsun Festival – Children wear white
Parents Liasion Meeting – 9:15 am in the staffroom
Lantern Festival – 6:20pm
Class 1 Parents Evening 7pm
School Photos
BOT Meeting 5:30pm in the staffroom
Last Day Term 2