

Kia Ora Everyone,

Camps are an important and exciting part of the Tauranga Waldorf School Learning Journey, but back in the days when I was a parent in this school, I'm not sure I fully appreciated just how lucky our kids are. I certainly don't think that I had realised that the Camps that our children anticipate and we all see as normal, would never be attempted or dreamed of by mainstream schools, at a primary school level.

My first experience of the Class 5 Steiner Olympic Camp was 8 years ago down in Hastings, and it was a standout experience. So last week I was bowled away to find that the Olympics of my memory, has been even further grown and developed in the years since. I don't mind telling you that I was particularly proud that it is our school and one of our teachers, Fran McCall, who hosts, convenes and is directly responsible, on our school's behalf (with help from a band of wonderful parents) for this phenomenal threshold experience.

Led by our own Ellis Bryers, the week opened with a truly unique powhiri weaving the traditions of Aotearoa and Ancient Greece into a wonderful welcome to the Class 5 children, teachers and parent helpers from all the six North Island Waldorf schools. And from there the momentum just built. Watching the children adapt from working with their classmates who they know so well, to contributing and cooperating within a new Greek State of strangers was such a pleasure and such a credit to us all. By the fourth day (the day of the Olympic Ceremony), they were no longer Tauranga Waldorf students, but so clearly members of their state - all other loyalties and allegiance put aside.

At the closing ceremony, which parents who've attended will tell you, is a spectacle not to be missed, each individual child stands proudly to receive their medal as well as feedback on their efforts over the week, from their City State Leader. As a spectator, I couldn't help reflecting that the way this is all managed and structured means that the contribution of the children makes every one a winner. And that the final bestowing of the Olive wreaths, with which the ceremony ends, is simply more reason for all to feel proud.

For those of you further down in the school, whose only knowledge of the school camps is the stories you have heard about the frustrations of endless fundraising to get them there, can I encourage you to hold that thought and just trust me, it will absolutely be worth it, for both your child and you.

Nga Mihi

Shirley Bacica  
Class 5 Teacher



P.S. See online version of the Wednesday Window for more Olympics pictures!

## FROM THE FAIR GROUP

### Craft Group Needs Your Help!

The Craft Group continues to meet on Fridays 9:00am until 11:00am and Tuesdays 7:30pm until 9:00pm at the Cowshed.

We have been working on felted soaps, knitted animals, capes, needle felted fruit and veges, felt mice, fish and toadstools. Thanks everyone who joined in this amazing creative and productive journey!



On our agenda for the upcoming weeks are Waldorf window pictures, embroidered matchboxes, fleece angels and wet felted Christmas decorations.

We are still looking for donations of match boxes and acorn shells.

Come along and join us or pick up a project to take home! We are happy about every helping hand. Ina ("Eena") 0211544558 and Billie 0223003729

## FROM THE OFFICE

### SCHOOL WEBSITE

Our new and improved school website is now up and running after its makeover! Head over and check it out! <http://waldorftga.school.nz>. Many thanks to Mike and Tracey Lee for their help!

### BEANBAGS

The Chalet is looking for 3 or 4 adult sized fabric beanbags. If you or someone you know have any unused beanbags lying around and would like to donate them, please drop them at the school office. Thank you from Jen and the Listening team.

### CLASS 5 FUNDRAISING

This term Class 5 will be continuing with their lunch fundraiser, offering a warm homemade vege soup \$3, and cake \$2. Orders will remain on the Wednesday morning.

Children will need to bring a mug to school for their soup, this mug can stay at school for the term, so please label. We will provide a tray for each class to store the mugs in.

### FOODBANK APPEAL

Collection boxes are now in each class for our annual foodbank appeal. Please donate any nonperishable items that you can spare to help families in need in our community! Collection will run until next Friday 18 August. Many thanks for your support!

### ABSENCES

Please call, text or message us via the app with absences by 9am. Your help would be greatly appreciated with this as it saves us a lot of time in the mornings! Thank you.

### Lost Property

With the winter weather, children need lots of layers. Please name all clothing so it can be returned to your child should it become lost. Many thanks!

## DATES FOR TERM TWO

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> August

Class 1 2018 Parents Evening (by invitation only)  
Kindergarten Information Afternoon 3:15pm

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> August

Fire Festival (Class 6 & 7)

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> August

Class 3 Farm Trip  
Class 6 Friday Market Sale

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September

Kotahi/Autumn Rose Parents Evening

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September

Spring Rose/Summer Rose Parents Evening

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September

Class 5 Wetlands Discovery

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September

Spring Festival / Last day Term 3

