

*Wishing you a very
Happy Easter and
school holiday break.*

LOOKING BACK AND LOOKING FORWARD

Mary T-J

At the beginning of Term 1 2022 we embarked on a new community experiment in answer to two seemingly warring responsibilities. The first was the imperative to support the nation's effort to slow the spread of the Covid-19 virus. The second was to stay open while continuing to deliver the authentic Waldorf learning experience we all signed up for. And the answer we came up with was give away nothing and *to head outdoors*.

In the 11 weeks that have followed we've learned many things. We can now absolutely confirm for you, for example, that with enough goodwill, flexibility and imagination, almost anything is possible in an outdoor setting. We can also tell you that while outdoor learning in a pandemic is great for kids (and for flattening the curve, thank you very much and you're welcome) it is not any kind of easy ride for teachers!

At the end of last week, Class 5 even performed their play outdoors – actually the very same play that their teacher Sam had taken part in when he was in Class 5 in a Waldorf school on the other side of the world!

This 2022 outdoor version of the tale of Gilgamesh managed to accommodate one of the lead characters becoming a household contact on the morning of the performance, requiring a last minute step in and step up from a mate, AND another key player coming down with a debilitating and suspicious looking bug 2-3 minutes after the opening speech. And the show still went on – a credit to all.



The performance was especially poignant for this class and group of parents as it was performed as a farewell gesture to Sam who will be leaving NZ on a year's leave at the end of term.

We wish Sam and his fiancé Jamie,
Paripari ngā mihi ki runga i a koe.

May they be steeped in our well wishes and good luck!

It has been customary in the last years to confirm our Class teacher placements at the end of Term 1 when our various transitions are completed and this year, we are positioned to do the same, again. Here they are.

Class Teacher Placement – Term 2 2022	
Class 1	Sonya Moke
Class 2	Morgan King
Class 3	Kaeli Gibson
Class 4	Shirley Bacica
Class 5	Taryn Potier & Roanna Gornall
Class 6	Laura Jarnefelt & Michael Rall
Class 7	Fiona Thomas

You'll notice we are also saying mā te wā to Suzanne who will go back to the kindergarten, as has been the pattern in the last years, and no doubt she'll pop back up on this side of the fence in due course.

Looking ahead to Term 2 I'm sure we are all wondering about changes ahead. The Board has done plenty of preparatory work to ensure that we can continue to operate safely while retaining the richness and colour of our wonderful Waldorf curriculum, building on the vision of as much of that curriculum as possible being integrated into our outdoor program.

As a last word here, I'd like to ask you to join me in sending two shout-outs. The first is to our wonderful teachers, who have stretched themselves in ways many could not previously have imagined, to provide for our tamariki over the last term.

And the second is to tautoko our equally wonderful trustees (both the Board and Trust) who've caught all the edges of our work, supported and added to our ideas, taking responsibility for the outcomes both good and bad, using both hearts and minds to watch carefully over finances while steering the vision to an ever stronger and healthier Waldorf School, even in crazy times like these. Although often gone unseen, this work is no small thing and deserves the appreciation of every one of us.

Mary T-J



MOVE TO 'ORANGE' TONIGHT

There was an announcement today that NZ moves to Orange at 11:59pm tonight, on the basis that we are moving past the peak of cases and our health system is able to cope.

What that means for us is:

- Face masks are no longer compulsory for indoor learning;
- There are no restrictions on gathering limits indoors and outdoors;
- We are still being encouraged to be cautious and retain health measures that will slow the spread of Covid-19.



For more information, visit: <https://covid19.govt.nz/>

We will provide an update on back-to-school requirements before Term 2 commences and any further changes to our existing health and safety systems.

We are very grateful for the patience and courtesy shown by you all and so looking forward to a few less restrictions and returning to school community life that is a bit closer to normal.

From the Pledge Corner

Kia ora Whanau,

We are **so nearly there** for 2022 – with just under 10 pledge forms still missing for the year.

A big thank you to all of you who have submitted your forms and to those who have started your contributions – both monetary and deeds. It never stops amazing me how the visionary approach of our founders remains so relevant today. What especially stuns me is the way our community approach to money and to the support of each other continues to make it possible to keep our kindergarten and school open and accessible to all tamariki – no matter the times we are in. And let's be clear it's not all roses this year!

I can't think of one person that hasn't been impacted by the changes of the last two years and, while working on the budgets, it became very apparent that our community is feeling the sting too. The pledged donations for 2022 are considerably lower than in previous years and it is going to be tough to keep the programs and services we've all come to expect in place and operating this year.

If you have not been able to commit to the recommended pledge, please do keep in mind that you can get in touch with us if you can support us with deeds to make up the difference. Just contact pledges@waldorftqa.nz.

We will keep a skills register to be able to get in touch if we see an opportunity coming up that requires a specific set of talents. Currently we could use some help with cleaning, building, gutter cleaning and gardening to name the top of the list items.

Thank you everyone once again!

Marlis

DEAR OSCAR FAMILIES

As you know the Waldorf Schools Trust (WST) found itself at the beginning of 2022 having to make the decision that it could not provide its Before and After School Care Service in Term 1.

At that time the combination of the extra restrictions placed on the operation, together with the difficulty we had recruiting staff, made the running of a compliant special character program impossible.

As the term has gone on, it has become clear to us that even when restrictions are lifted in the future we are still not in a position to guarantee the provision of a quality program that also meets our special character standards. On that basis, the WST reluctantly made the decision, at its recent meeting, to relinquish our license to operate the Oscar service for the foreseeable future.

Thank you for your support of the service and all its many workers and users over the last 10 years. It's hoped that sometime in the future, when the world and our school and kindergarten are a little steadier, that we can resurrect the program that so many children have enjoyed.



The Defibrillator Project



Lots of you will remember that we have been fundraising for quite some time with the aim of purchasing a defibrillator for the school and wider community to have access to.

The latest update is that a family from our community has very generously donated the difference in funds needed to purchase the defibrillator.

We are working on getting the defibrillator installed shortly. A very big and very 'heartfelt' *thank you* to everyone who has contributed and, in particular, this very kind donor.

KEY DATES

Term 2:	Monday 2 nd May – Friday 8 th July
Founder's Meeting:	Sunday 15 th May
Teacher-only Day:	Friday 3 rd June
Queen's Birthday:	Monday 6 th June
Matariki:	Friday 24 th June

FROM ROSE RING KINDERGARTEN

E mihi kau ana ki a koutou katoa,

We write to you from beyond the kindergarten blue gate, with the birds singing and the sounds of children playing in the Autumn sun and we reflect on yet another ... unpredictable term. That, amongst the challenges, has provided some true gifts. Gifts of resilience, of gratitude, of warmth of community and relationships and of understanding.



Term One has seen Rose Ring Kindergartens focus on rebuilding and establishing relationships, brought about by the absence and then return of class mates and

teachers. And extending this whanaungatanga further as we adapt to changes by having playdates with other kindergarten classes.

And further still through the relationships being established with the most wonderful pool of relievers who have supported Rose Ring Kindergarten throughout the term.



The gift of resilience that was eluded to earlier, is a quality of which we continue to see children carry with them despite the changes in environment and personnel.

Pancake Day at kindergarten is also a well-received festival. This year was certainly no different, as teachers and children shared a special meal together.

Ngahuru/Autumn continues to steep us in warm sunshine, while also bringing the cooler, dewy mornings and evenings. Which makes perfect conditions for our gardens and trees! Trees that are laden with fruit that are now ready for the many hands to harvest and then cook them in preparation and anticipation of next term's Harvest Festival.

Our guava bushes have also provided the odd delight as children discover their whereabouts in the garden during play.



Where possible, most kindergarten classes have continued their weekly rhythm of venturing to the farm and fairy forest.

Suzanne Allen will return (home) to the kindergartens, after two terms with the Te Arakura/Class One children. We look forward to having her experience and wisdom back as part of the kindergarten teaching team.

Behind the scenes at present, teachers are organising and preparing in anticipation for next Thursday's Easter Festival. Children will experience an Easter story, within an Aotearoa/New Zealand context of "How the Kiwi lost his wings", followed later in the morning with 'Bunny buns' – our twist on the hot cross bun.

As the term meanders to its ending, so too does our time with Dianna Kingham and Deanna Lambert-Fu who will both step away from their roles as kindergarteners at Rose Ring Kindergartens to each pursue other paths.

We wholeheartedly wish both Dianna and Deanna well and warmly thank them for the countless ways they have shared their wisdom, love and commitment with children, their colleagues and the Rose Ring Kindergarten community.

And finally, we wish to thank our parent community who continue to impart warmth, support and understanding into our partnership.

Happy holidays – Ngā mihi o Te Aranga – Happy Easter.

