



Te Kura o Rudolf Steiner Otautahi Rudolf Steiner School

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Newsletter

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End of the most TORRID of YEARS

February 22nd will be remembered as the date that not only changed the year but changed our lives in Christchurch. The year has continued to be dominated by the emotional turmoil and huge consequences of the quakes and one that we need to thank every teacher and support person in our school (and indeed in Canterbury) for digging deeply beyond their own personal fears, anxieties and home circumstances to support our students first emotionally and then academically when it became possible.

We received enormous support from the national and international Steiner community and used that money to support many families and teachers in dire circumstances. There were events both big and small that demonstrated the resilience that kept us going – the Upper School play was a triumph beyond what we thought possible; the school fair with parents putting in so much work; the morning breakfasts and lunches, the tiny gifts and care students showed their teacher or each other.

We have also had much to celebrate both in student personal achievements in sporting (remember the Class 9 boys basketball), academic (10% higher excellence in NCEA level 3 than the decile 8 average but one of the many very high achievements), performance (the new strings programme and Level 3 music performances) and artistic (everywhere you look). I cannot emphasise enough the admirable resilience our teachers, the support staff and community have shown in this year of years.

We enter the last week of the year with the Pageant, Class 12 graduation evening and the school farewell to Class 12, Class 7 graduation and the kindergarten children looking towards Class 1.

Thank you everyone for your constant support.

Staffing

We are very pleased to announce that **Neil Carter** will be the Class 1 teacher next year. He will be our morning teacher with our lovely ex pupil **Ana Pearson** taking all the afternoons. We are very excited to have Ana with us as she is an accomplished jazz pianist, an artist, co-organiser of the 2012 Steiner based Youth Camp and fresh out of the College of Ed. This will be a great team. Neil has been awarded a term sabbatical so a very experienced Class 1 teacher will be coming from Waiheke Island for the first term.

We farewell **Jude Turnbull** who has been with us for 7 years and we thank her so much for the work she has done for many of our past and present students. It is also bon voyage to **Barbara Newman**, our other English teacher this year, who is sailing for Perth.

We have appointed **Rosalie Rogers** who will begin with us next year as the Learning Support and English Teacher. We are yet to appoint the HOD English and Sports Co-ordinator. Applications close on Friday.

We farewell one of our Rangatiras – **Deideric Ruarus** who has been a teacher, Proprietor and Board member for many many years. He has worked tirelessly in the background supporting our education in its building development and maintenance of the special character. Deideric's smile and extra strong handshake has brightened our meetings for years. It's nigh impossible to capture our gratitude in words, but with D (as we call him) retiring from all school events, we will be poorer for his leaving. To D and **Solvejg** - a class teacher for many years - our thanks and our love from us all.

We also farewell **Elizabeth Elsworth** who has worked with our children in Sensory Integration at the Helios Centre. Elizabeth has been working with us for more than 20 years and we congratulate her for her appointment as Class 1 teacher in Titirangi Steiner School.

Continued overleaf . . .

CALENDAR

Mary Fryer has expressed a wish to have one year off being the Special Ed coordinator. We would like to hear from anyone who may be interested in doing this 5 hour job for 2012. Please contact the office. Despite the year's problems, we have surpassed ourselves this year in having the Upper School and now the Lower School timetables finished before the end of school – huge thanks to **Malcolm** and **Brenda!**

National Standards

The National standards negotiations have taken a further extremely positive step with the literacy and maths MoE experts agreeing that our learning steps in both these areas meets their year 8 requirements. This is excellent news for us. It may mean that the MoE could only require us to report against National Standards at Class 7 as they are convinced that our learning steps meet the requirements over time.

Have a GREAT HOLIDAY and CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION.


In this increasingly secular world, Christmas has become much less than it once was. The mystery of the virgin birth, the incarnation of Gods son into human form and the story of Mary and Joseph being visited by the shepherds and kings is often not known by children or told by parents. There are many reasons for the loss of belief in Christianity - both from political history, human power differential and abuse and a generalised mode that 'if you can't see it, it can't exist' materialism.

I would like to put forward a way of viewing the Christmas story in a new context; that the annunciation of the angel to Mary is like that of conceiving in our minds love in its purest form – virginal in its conception, without sensuality, greed or requirement of pay back – love as unconditional radiance.

The birth can be seen as an image of holding Love in physical form – imagine holding pure love!!! - in the form of a baby, innocent and untrammelled by the meanness of life or human voracity. Radiant, encouraging, powerful, innocent, empowering and selfless. Love for the shepherds brought joy, warmth and goodwill to humanity. We experienced this in our quake filled communities where doing and giving was for anyone in need. Where goodness was love transformed into action. The Kings can represent wisdom, culture, intellect, society rulers, presidents, politicians. In recognising the human form of pure love and goodness, they gave gold frankincense and myrrh – we would wish that this love inspires wisdom free of power greed, creates ethical finance, fair trade between peoples, humanity that was spiritually equal, lives of truth rather than of convenience lies to others and to ourselves. Maybe the Wall St. campers are living the Christmas message. Love and goodness can transform ourselves. Don't dismiss it - try living it and perhaps you'll see why this message has been called the most powerful revolution.

Have a wonderful Christmas and we will see you all back on February 1st.

Thomas Proctor

	Thursday 8 December	Graduation celebration for Class 7
	Friday 9 December	Shepherd's Play, 6pm, Hall
	Wednesday 1 February	Term 1 starts
	1st - 3rd February	Class 8 - 10 Practical Workshops (WDI) Class 11 Peer Support & Class 12 Leadership Camp
	Monday 6 February	Waitangi Day
	Tuesday 7 February	Class 8 Welcome to Upper School, Mihi & lunch

Nau mai, haere mai ki

Being Well: Ōtautahi Summer Youth Gathering Ōnuku marae, Banks Peninsular, 20-25 January 2012

We are seeking seekers! If you are 18-35, come and share questions with like-minded people. Explore holistic well-being through practical activities, artistic projects & discussions.

Cost: \$200 (includes accommodation, food and workshops). You can make a donation to: The Anthroposophical Society NZ 38-9005-0416444-07 or check out www.summergathering.co.nz

Welcome back BBQ

The Community Association 'Welcome Back BBQ' will be on 10th Feb 2012. It will be at school at 5pm to welcome everyone back and to welcome new families.

Please join us to meet old friends and make new ones.

FROM THE SCHOOL

Wherever your path of life will take you
May you hold in your heart
The true essence of humanity
Which has been fostered here
In the spirit of love.
May you draw strength from
The experiences gained here
Now deeply embedded within your soul
Preparing you to face the world.

Translated from Rudolf Steiner, 1924

School Café Closed

Please send your child to school with their own food on Wednesday 7th, Thursday 8th & Friday 9th December.

For Sale, only 50c!

There are basket willow plants for sale at Ellen's Kindergarten. They are ideal for making willow houses and tunnels.

They are only 50c per plant.



Craft Raffle

'Snow White and Rose Red' beautifully crafted by Insa York will be drawn on Wednesday at 3pm outside room one.

Don't forget that we have a drop box in the office to recycle your old mobile phones. You will be supporting us and Starship Children's Hospital ♥

Dental Care over the School Holidays

The Community Dental Service will operate an emergency service over the school holidays. This service is to provide relief of pain only and will not undertake 'routine' treatment. The service will be available each working day from 8:30am until 12:30pm from the **Hillmorton Community Clinic, Sylvan Street, Christchurch** for the following times:

19th December 2011 – 23rd December 2011
(excluding weekends)

AND

9th January 2012 – 27th January 2012
(excluding weekends)

This service will operate by appointment only and if we are unable to see your child, alternative options will be given. If your child has dental pain as a result of an accident please contact your dentist in the first instance.

You can phone and make an appointment for the emergency clinic by ringing **0800 84 69 83** or **335 4222**.

Reclaim your lost clothing!

Please check the lost property table. It will be outside the hall foyer all week.



URGENT APPEAL

Please Return all overdue library books for the end of year stock take

**Julie's got a list and she's
Checking it twice.
So she's gonna find out
If you're 'naughty' or 'nice!'**



**Texts and novels not returned
Will be presumed LOST
And a letter sent home with a
BILL for the cost !**

Make Julie's Christmas happy by returning your library books. Thank you!

Raffle Winners

- 1st Zdenka Reading,
- 2nd Rod Davies,
- 3rd Sonja Nissen,
- 4th J. Hammond,
- 5th Pietzner,
- 6th T. Pope,
- 7th Marika Kitson
- 8th Rhodri Gwyther, 9th Sonja Nissen,
- 10th A. Isbister, 11th Marcia,
- 12th J. Glintborg, 13th N. Davies,
- 14th Andreas Koofegitis,
- 15th Mia Hood

FROM THE WIDER COMMUNITY

Share in Land For Sale: This is an opportunity to enjoy and grow on 33 acres of kanuka, manuka, and other bushclad, birdsong land in Little River. We are three families looking for another partner/s to join our partnership. Various projects possible. Please Phone Shelley on 9807557 for queries or interest.

Opawa Farmers' Market - your local market! Phone 03 960 6502 or 021 022 39582 or email urbanediblegardens@gmail.com . Visit us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/OpawaSt-Martins-Farmers-Market/147939998595296>

Bellydance Classes: Start February 13th for adults and children. Phone Paige on 021 999 848.

Seeking the Heart of Self-transformation

Wednesday 25th January, 2012, 7.30pm
Helios, 275 Fifield Terrace, www.helios.org.nz
GUEST SPEAKER ARTHUR ZAJONC, Ph.D.
ADMISSION \$15

Through his life story, Arthur Zajonc will share the experience of his personal search, and invite participants to examine their own lives for the particular character, trials and openings for realising their spiritual potential.

The Path of Life as a path of Becoming

ENROLMENT \$50

One Day Workshop / Thursday, 26 January,
9.00am-5.30pm

For information contact Yuri: yuri.wlsn@gmail.com



When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with the
flocks,
then the work of Christmas begins:

to find the lost,
to heal those broken in spirit,
to feed the hungry,
to release the oppressed,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among all peoples,
to make a little music with the heart...
And to radiate the Light of Christ,
every day, in every way, in all that we
do and in all that we say.
Then the work of Christmas begins.

Howard Thurman

Emotional support for those affected by cancer

Emotional support leads to a much better quality of life. The body can often reactivate self healing once the emotional and belief blockages are removed, coping skills are implemented. Please **watch the video** on this link <http://www.eft-emofree.com/cancer-retreat.html>
This will give details about this unique and transformational retreat, and also explain **why we get sick** and what it takes to **activate self healing**. Feel free to share this with those who might benefit from it.

"Living with Impermanence"

by visiting Zen Teacher Geoffrey Shugen Arnold

Wednesday, 11 Jan, 7.00pm, Rudolf Steiner School Auditorium

The Buddha taught that all things must pass. Although we see this to be so, we often resist and struggle against the inevitable. Come along to this interactive talk by Shugen Sensei, the Abbot of the Zen Center of New York City, and the Head of the Mountains and Rivers Order of Zen Buddhism. For more information, visit www.zen.org.nz or email secretary@zen.org.nz

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