



Rudolf Steiner School Trust, Wellington Newsletter Term 3, 2010

Dear Parents and Teachers,

This is the first issue of a newsletter from the Trust. Our intention is to report on trust activities, plans and issues directly to parents and teachers on at least a termly basis. We will try to be as succinct as we can and aim for a quick read that gives key information. Depending on the topic, lengthier articles, research or discussion can be included. This newsletter will also be published on the school website.

We look forward to keeping our School Community as well informed as possible and sharing our enthusiasm for Waldorf education and our great school.

Please feel free to share ideas and suggestions as to how the Trust can best serve children, teachers and community. We welcome your feedback.

Register of key decisions

The Trust's Strategic Plan, key decisions and financial reports are kept in a folder in the Parent Library and are available for viewing.

Proprietors' Executive Group (PEG) disestablished

Following its own recommendation, the PEG has been disestablished. We warmly thank all those who worked on or with the group especially Chris Penman, Andrew Fisher, and Alan Chapman (who as chair for several years, generously gave a huge amount of his own time).

Trust operation and administration

We are very pleased to welcome Lucette Hogg as our Administration Officer. Lucette comes with a business analyst background and will be actively involved in bringing about the key initiatives of the Trust. Lucette also supports Kindergarten with their administrative requirements.

The Trust itself is adopting a similar work structure to the BoT and Faculty with several mandate groups comprising one or two trustees and co-opted parents and teachers. Lucette will be supporting the mandates.

Trust membership

Current members are Peter Butchers, Rene de Monchy, Paul Denford, Tana Lyons and Adrian von Aesch. We intend to expand the membership in keeping with the new modus operandi. John Frost-Evans is working with us in a voluntary advisory capacity. Many parents will know John from his earlier work at Raphael House as liaison officer for the Trust. He returns after ten years in the U.K. and we are grateful for his willingness to share his experiences in business and school administration.

Board of Trustees (BoT) elections

Great to see such strong support! Many thanks to Chris Penman who acted as a Proprietors' Representative for —four years and who has now been elected in his own right. We now have a vacancy for one Proprietors' Representative. Adrian von Aesch and Paul Denford will remain on the Board.

Finances

The Trust's 2009 annual accounts have been audited (Deloitte are the School's auditors) and submitted to the Charities Commission. A copy can be viewed in the RSST folder in the Parent Library.

Special Character Contributions (SCC)

Thank you for your commitment to Raphael House and for your generosity! In today's difficult economic climate your response is most heartening. It is your generosity which enables our school to deliver a rich Waldorf curriculum for the benefit of all the children.

Please let Lucette know if:

-you are one of the few who have not yet returned your form and need another.
- ...you would like to discuss options for payments.
- ...if there is anything else you would like to discuss with us.

Rudolf Steiner School Trust Wellington is a charity set up to establish and support Waldorf education. We can only do this with your support and generosity.

Trust funds for Steiner Certificate.

The RSST, on the community's behalf, has paid \$25,000 to the Federation of Rudolf Steiner Waldorf schools (NZ) for development of a new Rudolf Steiner Waldorf school qualification. A report on its development will be available in the coming weeks in the Bush Telegraph.

Building development

The Trust has been requested by the BoT to urgently provide two classrooms for the Upper School. The Building Development Group is researching and costing options such as:

1. A part build of the upper school's existing plan for development.
2. A new 'design and build' building (i.e. designed in-house by the building company), sited above Petone West.
3. A new building that copies the plans for an already existing school building, which would be sited above the Class 8/Handwork room.
4. Prefabs.

ASG Parent and Child show

We were there! Thanks to some generous donations of time from Jennifer Holdaway and Gaylene Denford-Wood, a wonderful display was produced that attracted many families with young children previously unaware of the availability of Waldorf education in the Wellington Region. Teaching staff from Te Ra, Plum Parent Support, Thorndon Kindergarten and Raphael House (wo)manned the stall over this two day period for which we are extremely grateful. We intend to be there again next year.

Frank Kitts Market

This is an initiative launched by Chris Penman for the Fundraising group, thanks to the generous offer of free stall space by the operators Helena Tobin and Wendy Jaspers. The market is a weekly event showcasing Steiner/Waldorf education in the region and selling crafts made by parents and students. Our stall is a monthly event. Candle-dipping is a popular drawcard, attracting younger children and parents to take a closer look. Many thanks to parents who have joined the help roster. More crafts and toys especially are needed for sale.

In Conclusion

We are looking forward to Term 3, we feel we are now in a position to embark on some 'creative' stuff such as building a lower school playground, developing the Parent Curriculum and strengthening our relationship with the Community.

We hope to have you on board!

With Warm Regards

The Proprietors

Rudolf Steiner School Trust