

Weekly newsletter of Raphael House, Rudolf Steiner School

12 June 2009
Term 2: No 16

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Friends

This week, on Thursday 11th June Raphael House turned 30 years old! To help celebrate this event a group of parents invited everyone to come and share coffee, tea, hot chocolate, cake and candles in celebration at the Revolutionary Café (down at the School gate) both before and after School. Thank you to all those involved in this initiative and to everyone who, came along to help celebrate this important milestone in Raphael Houses journey.

Steiner Certificate Development

On Monday and Tuesday the Upper School Coordinators of the New Zealand Steiner Schools met in Wellington to discuss and further develop the Steiner Certificate. Jane Patterson National Project Manager worked with the group and will be visiting us for the remainder of the week. The focus of Jane's work has been in compiling a new "Teachers Handbook", which sets out the following:

- National Guidelines for gaining the Certificate
- "Cluster Group Meetings" in specialist areas for 2009
- Educational aims for each class
- Key Capacities for each class.

College of Teachers

The College of Teachers met with the Rudolf Steiner School Trust, the Proprietors this week in our weekly meeting and are reviewing and renewing a Memorandum of Understanding between the two groups.

The College meets with the Trust to discuss and share many aspects of our School Special Character, some of which have been the Anthroposophical impulse of the education, we also discussed the supply of and the ongoing need to find and support Waldorf teachers in New Zealand and to share questions and/or challenges together.

Have an enjoyable weekend,

Karen Brice-Geard
School Coordinator/Principal
on behalf of the College of Teachers: Ray Shore, David Stephenson and Margaret Sweaney

UPDATE FROM THE TRUST

Funding Appeal

Our heartfelt thanks to all those who have replied to our appeal. Your generous help is greatly appreciated. Already an additional \$14,000.00 has been pledged for this year. Our intention is to support our teachers to enable them to give the children the best possible Steiner education.

Please give the appeal your earnest consideration. If you need more information, please contact us. (As individuals we the Trustees, are willingly making our own personal donations).

Parents, Teachers and Friends Association

We would like to acknowledge the hard work of the Steering Group in creating the PTFA. This has long been missing and will play a vital role in the School. Our sincere thanks to all involved and thank you for the invitation to attend the inaugural meeting.

Also, thank you Steiner Stayers, Grandmothers and Wise Women for your good wishes.

Trust Policy Document

This document will be on the website this week, on the About Us/Governance Rudolf Steiner School Trust Page.

Limited Statutory Manager (LSM)

The Ministry of Education has appointed Ken Wilson as the LSM to oversee the budget and manage any changes necessary in the light of our funding shortfall. We welcome him and look forward to working with the College to ensure the School's Special Character and delivery at the Steiner Curriculum is maintained.

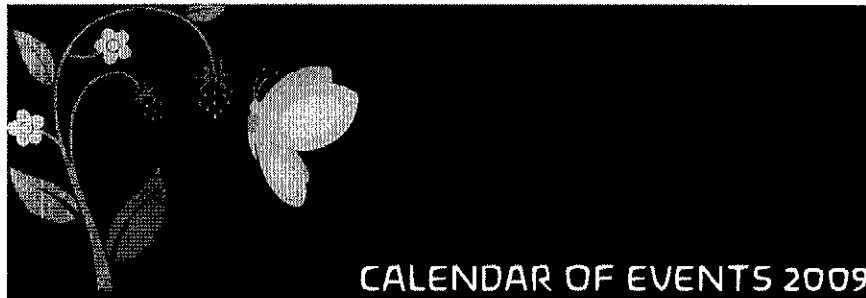
30th Birthday

11th June 1979 seems so long ago! My lasting memory of that day is the enthusiasm and joy of all involved. It was a wonderfully creative time as the new Raphael House was given life. Now 30 years old, it is a complex being... What birthday gift shall we give? At a birthday 2000 years ago, Wise Kings came bearing gifts...Shepherds, too, came bearing gifts...each according to their station in life. Yes we do need money and a school, like any healthy being also thrives on active interest and creativity which give life. Surely, great a gift we can give our School is our creativity.

If you have an idea, an offer, a project, something artistic or practical or just time to give, please let The Trust know. We'll record your idea or offer on a register, discuss it with you and pass it on to the right people. The power of our combined enthusiasm and goodwill (including that of our ex pupils and parents) is enormous, as is the power of our positive thoughts. Thank you!

Paul Denford
for Rudolf Steiner School Trust

Peter Butchers 589 3710, Rene de Monchy 589 6101, Janet Thomson 565 3644, Paul Denford 589 1652.



TERM 2 27 April – 3 July
 TERM 3 20 July – 25 September
 TERM 4 12 October – 16 December

DATE	EVENT	TIME & PLACE
22 June	BOT Meeting	7.00pm
22 June	Maori Foundation Group meeting	7.30pm
25 June	Mid Winter Festival	No cancellation Date
30 June	Class 12 Presentations	Eurythmy Room
3 July	LAST DAY OF SCHOOL	3pm finish
15 July	Japanese Puppet Show	
27 July	Class 5 Parent Meeting	7.30pm
4 August	Class 7 Parent Meeting	7.30pm
10 August	Teacher Only Day	No School today
11 August	Class 2 Parent Evening	7.30pm
12 August	Class 3 Parent Evening	
17 August	Class Rep Meeting	Eurythmy Room
19 August	Kindergarten Parent Meeting	7.30pm
24 August	BoT Meeting	7pm
25 August	Class 4 Parent Evening	7.30pm
4 September	Class 3 Play	
19 September	Class 12 Project Presentations	
24 September	Raphael Festival	
25 September	School Term End	3pm

PARENTS, TEACHERS AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION INC (PTFA)

Next Sunday afternoon 14th June take decisive action! The whole School community (i.e. parents, teachers, staff and friends) will be illegible to vote on the adoption of the Association's Constitution which officially sets up the proposed PTFA: then it will exist!

Also at this meeting will be the final chance for parents of students enrolled at Raphael House to vote for the first Association Committee.

The Steering Group has been working intensively, and communicating with you regularly, over the past six months, with the help of the School. It has been a huge effort. Our positive and coordinated efforts are intended to support the School, and set the scene for other practical steps that some of you might want to take in the future. But we strongly believe that these steps should be done through an Association, with broad-based support and representation from the teachers, staff and wider School community.

Use your voting form to vote for the Committee. There are 12 candidates for 9 places, then post it back to Helen Lewis, Returning Officer, PTFA Elections, P.O. Box 31383, Lower Hutt or place your form in the ballot box in the Lower Office. The votes will be counted by the Returning Officer and a member of the Steering Group. If you would like to remove your name from your voting paper, please do so.

Please note that one candidate Eileen Watson has withdrawn from the election.

Come along on Sunday 14th June to the Eurythmy Room at 3pm to vote for the Parents, Teachers and Friends Association: it cannot exist if you don't vote for it.

Helen Lewis

**TE ROUPU TAUTUKO i te KAUPAPA MAORI
MAORI FOUNDATION GROUP**

The Maori Foundation Group gathered together last Tuesday night for an informal meeting, the 5th time since its initiation. The next meeting will be held Monday 22nd June (time and place to be confirmed). Everyone is welcome to attend.

The following are events relating to the Maori Calendar.

Maori Language Week 22 - 28 June 2009.

Matariki Festival: Maori New Year Celebration 24th June - 24th July 2009.

Matariki Te Tau Hau - Matariki The New Year

Manaaki Whenua. Manaaki Tangata. Hāere whakamua.

Care for the land. Care for the people. Go forward.

INTERESTING HISTORY

Back in August 1985, the blessing of Raphael House School took place, by Maui Pomare, and Kohe Webster (master carver) who was the kai-wero (challenger) and Harata Solomon, an elder of Ngati Toa. Maui Pomare of Te Atiawa tribe, and his family of many generations, have occupied the Tirohanga area since early last century. Every ridge and stream of our School area has deep associations for the Maori people and the Pomare family. Maui's grandfather farmed the hills and Maui himself, in his youth, made the 'cattle track' down to the Wairere stream, which many of our children wander down today. On the day of the blessing, Maui recalled the names of streams, springs and knolls, villages and people right down through the generations to the present. His help and knowledge of the history of the settlement of the area were a generous gift to the School ('ahi-ka' of the tribe who are 'keepers of the fire').

Based on account of the event, written by Philip Walker, August 1985 (edited)

Aroha mai, aroha atu.

Love towards us, love going out from us.

Debi Lloyd

On behalf of the Maori Foundation Group

FROM THE OFFICE

We are currently updating our Trade Directory, if you want to be included in this 2009 year, or know someone who might be interested, please telephone: Fiona at the Lower Office 569 5161.

SPORT

NETBALL- SATURDAY Week 7

TEAM	VS.		
U/S Raphael House 1	St Orans 14	Court 3	11am
U/S Raphael House 2	Naenae 5	Court 1	12pm
U/S RH Ravens	KC Green	Finnman	1.30pm
L/S Raphael House 1	St Claudine Int 2	New World 2	11am

FOOTBALL- SATURDAY WEEK 7

U/S Raphael House 1	Wainuiomata 1	Wainuiomata	9am
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BASKETBALL- U/S: TUESDAY 16th June

L/S: WEDNESDAY 17th June WEEK 8

U/S Raphael House 1	Not available yet. See coach or visit www.collegesport.org.nz		
L/S Raphael House 1	Als Rookies	Court 2	4pm

COMMUNITY NOTICES

THERAPEUTIC INITIATIVE

As some of you may already know, several therapists are now working out of the rooms of the Anthroposophical Society, at 37 Pretoria Street/19 Bristol Square, Lower Hutt. Curative Eurythmy, Anthroposophical nursing and Extra Lesson are currently offered there. In support of this therapeutic initiative, Dr. David Ritchie offers to give a talk to the community on "The Over Sensitive Child".

The Therapeutic Initiative Group
warmly invites you to a presentation by
Dr. David Ritchie
"The Oversensitive Child"

Friday 26 June
7.30 pm
Eurythmy Room, Raphael House, Rudolf Steiner School
27 Matuhi Street, Belmont, Lower Hutt
\$5.00 at the door

Dr. David Ritchie has worked with children for years and his experience has given him a very deep understanding of the child that struggles to cope in this modern world. He is based at the Helios Therapeutic Centre in Christchurch and travels the world, giving presentations, visiting schools and clinics.

FUTURE FOODIES - OUR OWN RURAL CO-OP AT SMORGANICS

84a Johnson's Rd, Whitemans Valley
More families wanted. Come and see what we're up to!

Last spring a small group of Raphael House families got together to begin a community garden. Thanks to the generosity of Mike and Rachel at Smorganics, we had a paddock to begin it in. We ploughed the paddock, made compost, applied preparation 500 and planted the whole garden in potatoes. Now it's winter and while eating a lot of potatoes we are planning the next crop for spring.

On Sunday 28 June we will be planting garlic and green manure, and making compost. There are still potatoes to be dug and for \$2 per kilo anyone can take some home (no extra charge for the fun of digging them!).

If you think you might like to be a "Future Foodie" come along. Bring a garden fork, 5 bulbs of garlic to plant (organic, not the Chinese supermarket variety) and your children. If you have any materials to contribute to the compost heap bring them too. We'll start at 1pm and finish with an early shared meal of soup, bread and dips. Bring a contribution if you can. We look forward to seeing you! Phone Mike Edwards on 529 8685 or Judy Randall on 589 2323.

ADULT EDUCATION TERM 2

LEARNING TO GIVE THERAPEUTIC FOOTBATHS

With Rachel Clark and Marcia Pollock

Date: Monday 15th June 2009 at 7.30pm - Eurythmy Room

To enroll ph: Sabine 565 1480 Cost \$5.00 p.p.

Learn more about the gesture behind giving a therapeutic footbath. Rachel and Marcia will give you the experiencing a footbath yourself and gain the skills to offer one in return to members of your family. Footbaths can be used to de-stress, treat colds, headaches etc.

NURSING YOUR CHILD AT HOME

With Rachel Clark and Sarah Therkleson

Date: Tuesday 23 June 2009 at 7.30pm - Eurythmy Room

Nursing your child at home. An opportunity to share and learn from others about Anthroposophical first aid and simple home remedies. We can also cover the teenager to young adult. To enroll phone Sabine 565 1480. Cost \$5.00 p.p.

WHAT'S ON

JAPANESE PUPPET SHOW AND WORKSHOP

15TH JULY 2009

To be held in the Raphael House Eurythmy room. More information coming your way.

GUITAR LESSONS

Due to popular demand, the new guitar teacher Luke Parker, is opening another day of guitar lessons at Raphael House. Contact Luke at guitar-lessons@hotmail.co.uk or on 021 0241 4824. Please see the brochure enclosed in this weeks newsletter.

PARENT CRAFT GROUP

We would like a hand to find lots of gum nuts. Also caps from pine oak trees, stronger than ordinary oak tree caps. (Now is the time to look for them on the ground). Crafters who would like to make something in wood.

Monday group is full of warmth and activity. Please feel welcome to join us. Wednesday evening is also an option, or if you would like to make something but work best on your own contact me for ideas and materials. Even just one item would be a way to contribute to the school and helps to make the craft room a real representation from the parents. Last year we had several of these one off crafts, dolls, dolls furniture, felted animals and people, paintings, wooden toys... wonderful.

Monday 8.30am to 11.45, all levels of experience welcome (held in the Pole Room, under class 5, a child friendly space). Wednesday evenings (held in Silverstream).

Many thanks, Jennifer Holdaway, Coordinator telephone 972 3010 or jenh@paradise.net.nz

UPCOMING EVENTS AT RIVERSLEA RETREAT

733 Otaki Gorge Rd, Otaki, Ph 06 364 3388 or visit www.riverslearetreat.co.nz

4 DAY - ZEN MEDITATION RETREAT LED BY PHIL SHINKO SQUIRE 24 - 28 June 2009

Sesshin is an integral part of Zen Buddhist training and includes sitting and walking meditation, dharma talks, and interviews with the teacher, chanting, work practice and rest periods. The session is suitable for beginning and experienced Zen students and full instruction will be given. Cost: \$60/night includes meals and accommodation. Contact: Phil 021 215 5565 or shinko@clear.net.nz

ENLIGHTENED WOMEN'S RETREAT. A RETREAT FOR WOMEN 17th - 19th July 2009

UPPER HUTT ROLLER SKATING CLUB INFO / JULY SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Roller Disco. Great family entertainment. Entry \$6 Blade hire \$3 Skate hire. The rink is available for use during school hours. Ring Chris 04 5297 551 or email SKATEWELLINGTON@YAHOO.CO.NZ 34B Goodshed Rd, Rink phone 939 507 www.skate.wellington.net.nz/skatewellington@yahoo.co.nz

VIOLIN CONCERT FREE

A great opportunity to share quality music with your children, bring your children along to hear Hutt Valley Suzuki violinists playing their mid-year concert performance. Come and support these talented young primary and secondary aged musicians, (including many from our own school), as they play selections from their repertoire in an informal friendly concert. Diary the date now Friday 26th June, 5pm - 5.30pm at Avalon Baptist Church, cnr Lincoln and High Streets, by Park Ave. Prepare to be inspired!

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

All copy, including advertisements, to be at the school office in written form no later than Tuesday 9.00 am the week of publication. Classified Advertising 'Buy, Sell or Swap' \$2.00 per week. Private enterprises and businesses: \$5.00 up to 4 lines (one column width); Non-profit organisations may apply for space. No flyers/inserts unless directly related to the school, anthroposophy, or Steiner education. Advertisements are placed at the discretion of the College. Publication does not imply endorsement of the activities advertised. Advertisements that contravene the Special Character of Waldorf Education will not be considered for publication.

FENCE PALINGS WANTED Do you have any fence palings, or know of a fence being pulled down? 150x25mm, must be unstained, unpainted, off cuts down to 400 mm long. We will use them in the Kindergarten to extend the existing fence to meet the Ministry of Education requirements. Please ask your friends and neighbours. Contact Andrew or Catharina 589 0556

HORSES, HORSES, HORSES Are you interested in horses or thinking of having your own horse one day? If so, these Horse Care Courses are designed just for you! The courses are a hands on horse experience, so get some classmates and friends together and enrol. (Held in Belmont), courses are already underway. Contact Chelsea 565 3626

KAYAKS We wish to borrow/hire 2 kayaks for a few months before considering buying. Please phone Catharina or Andrew 589 0556

SOLID OAK FOUR DRAWER DUCHESS WITH MIRROR, glass protecting the top. Previously renovated, in good solid order. Small old borer holes in the back, and bottom runner needs a bit of TLC, a beautiful piece that should be adored by someone. Offers. Phone Victoria 027 609 4149 or 589 1160

WANTED URGENTLY Relieving assistants for the kindergarten. If you are interested we would like to have a chat with you. Please contact Julia, Margaret or Leonie at lunch or after 3pm 569 5161

Raphael House Rudolf Steiner School
27 Matuhi Street, Belmont, Lower Hutt
Telephone: 64 4 569 5161 Fax 64 4 569 4860
E-mail fiona.d@raphaelhouse.school.nz

Music Projects & Home Tasks

During the course I'll be setting projects of various sizes, including on-going compositional work, learning guitar pieces of the student's choice and even designing their own scales and chords (which often result in finding ones already there!). There will also be weekly homework activities, the occasional school performance and a quick test after every twelve weeks to monitor how much has been learnt.

Guitar Maintenance

We'll also take a look at the anatomy of the guitar as well as its general maintenance, adjustments and tuning.



Lessons are available *one to one* or *in pairs*, at Raphael House or your home.

About the Guitar Teacher: Luke Parker

Luke is a self-taught guitarist, performer, singer songwriter, music producer, percussionist and a dedicated, enthusiastic teacher of all these skills. He has taught guitar privately to over 100 people of all ages, including two years at St. Luke's Junior School in Brighton, England. He is also an accomplished drum workshop leader and is currently writing a book on 'how to play guitar whilst having the most fun and the least headaches'.

Luke has recorded three albums, has appeared on another four; and has played live with a variety of bands in the last decade, including UK funk-reggae band Vogue Gytratory and with globally renowned folk singer Martha Tilston. With these projects and more, he has played at countless venues, such as the Komedia (Brighton, England), the Queen Elizabeth Hall (London), the Fiddler's Green Festival (Newry, N.Ireland), the Mussel Inn (Golden Bay, New Zealand) and five years at the infamous Glastonbury Festival.

For more information contact Luke:

h: 04 565 0512

m: 021 02414824

e: guitar-lessons@hotmail.co.uk

w: www.voguegytratory.com/guitar-lessons



Innovative, practical & fun

Guitar Lessons



THE LESSONS

Scales, Chords and a bit of Theory

The lessons get straight to the point, using practical and entertaining exercises to show how to play scales and chords. Students then use what they've learnt to improvise, jam and particularly write their own music (the most rewarding feeling when playing guitar). At the end of each lesson we play a quick game to help each topic sink in.

For more advanced students, we look at this more in depth and work towards understanding how scales, chords and theory all fit together. And how chords and scales can be transposed to more complicated structures, giving players a better understanding of guitar; for lead playing, fills, rhythm playing and using all this to improvise around pieces of music (an essential skill required as a musician).

Practice CD

Students will also receive a monthly CD to practice new chord progressions and improvise with scales over tunes. Made especially for each individual.

Technique & Rhythm

We regularly focus on right hand technique with an emphasis on strumming, finger picking and rhythm. Students have the option to learn reggae, ska, hip-hop, funk, blues, jazz, African, Latin American, folk, Brit-pop, indie, rock, pop, ballads... in fact any style of music!

We'll also be slowly but steadily building left hand technique, using simple tips and fun activities to avoid fret buzz, misplacement and to increase efficiency.

John Sucinno Vermeltfoort

I was approached by friends at our school to volunteer to be on the PTFA committee.

As a fairly new parent to the school of one and a half years, I saw this as an opportunity to be of service in our community.

Formerly the head of a large Buddhist community for many years, I regard myself as a simple man who lives by practising the development of basic human good qualities. These qualities, that I think cross all spiritual schools of thought, include a sense of involvement, warm-heartedness, using our human intelligence guided by good motivation and seeking peaceful resolution whenever conflict arises.

Winston Roberts

I am standing for election to the Committee of the PTFA because I want to help strengthen the community's engagement with the School. I want to do this for one reason above all: the 'Special Character' of the School as a New Zealand integrated school must be supported; and the College of Teachers, as guardians of the special character in Raphael House, must also be supported in their work.

It is the responsibility of the School's governing bodies and management to run the School efficiently and effectively, communicating well with the wider School community. I believe it is also the responsibility of the School community to support the School as an institution, morally (with understanding and good will) and materially (by contributing financially to the extent that each family is able). This means that constructive criticism should be able to be voiced, through positive dialogue with the community, including through the PTFA, that focuses on the outcome of a sound education and a sustainable School.

As a member of the Steering Group, I have taken part in the careful drafting of the Constitution of the future PTFA. I stand by that Constitution as a firm foundation for the work which is needed, and I would like to help carry that work forward.

I am the parent of a child in Class 4 at Raphael House. I enrolled my child in a Steiner school because I have observed in my own extended family, in Christchurch, over the past half-century, how Steiner's ideas have had a beneficial effect on the intellectual, spiritual and emotional development of the individual. I strongly believe that Waldorf education is even more necessary to address some of the more pernicious social trends that we observe today. I also believe that Raphael House School should never forget that it is situated in New Zealand, in the Southern Hemisphere in the 21st century, in a multicultural society with a bi-cultural foundation, so that it educates our children to grow up safely and confidently in that society.

Maarten Quivooy

My name is Maarten Quivooy and I have been a parent at Raphael House for over 20 years. My youngest child, Vida is in class 5 this year.

I have seen the school grow from being a community of pioneers (I can remember working parties laying the zig zag path on weekends) to being a much more diverse community. We are now a community brought together by an interest in Waldorf education and by the Special Character education that our children receive at Raphael House.

One of the challenges brought by being a more diverse community is finding ways to inform and express ourselves as a community, to enable our voices to be heard, and to be able to find our common ground – which is the education our children receive.

I have been part of the Steering Group that has worked over the last few months to draft the constitution for the Parents, Friends and Teachers Association. I would like to see this Association becoming a positive force for support for the School, the College and the community.

I have been heartened by the report from Malcolm Baxter the Special Adviser working with the Board of Trustees and the School. I have a particular interest in how the Association can contribute to promoting the relationship of reciprocal trust between the School and parents which is necessary to a vital and sustainable School.

I would like to see the PFT Association contributing to renewing the 'social contract' that Malcolm talks about in his report – where parents and the School can have a clear understanding of the expectations that they can have of each other. I also believe the PFT Association can support the College in making sure that the School's policies are well developed and supported with parent input. The current work on the complaints policy is an example of where the PFT Association could provide this support.

I look forward to the opportunity to helping the PFT Association become a strong support for the School, the College and the community.

Julian Thomson

I have been a parent at Raphael House since 1994. For 13 years (up until 2007) I was teaching in the Upper School. My wife Janet has also been involved as a teacher, therapist and Trust member during that time. We have three daughters, two of whom have been through the school and one who is at present in Class 5.

Over recent months I have been a member of the Steering Group of the Parent Association.

I believe that my experience as a former staff member as well as a parent could be of value to the Parent Association. I would like to work towards a renewed shared vision of the educational purpose of Raphael House, and I am interested in strengthening the positive participation and constructive communication links between parents and school.

If elected on to the new Parent Association Committee, I look forward to contributing towards an invigorated, collaborative and enthusiastic engagement with the school community. I am interested that all parents, with their diverse perspectives, can feel confident of fair representation in our new association.

Catharina Fisher

I have 3 children at Raphael House; Class 5, Class 2 and a kindy child.

For many years I had a deep involvement in the Lower Hutt Steiner Playgroup. I was an active member of the RHOG group. I have been a class rep for five of the last 7 years in various classes.

As a member of the PTFA I would like to help with improving communication within the greater school community. I would hope to help parents resolve issues. I would like to work towards an acceptance that none of us are perfect – individuals or groups, and that in an atmosphere of trust we are able to work together on improving our school and greater school community.

Marie Deery

This is an exciting time for Raphael House with the rebirth of the Parent Association.

Having worked extremely hard with the Steering Group over the past five months, gathering information, drafting the Constitution and working towards having the community fully informed regarding the process. I fully appreciate and stand behind the aims of the PTFA. I feel it would be important to maintain some continuity as we move forward into a new phase at Raphael House and realise there is much to be done to achieve the fully resourced school that our parents want and our children deserve.

I was inspired by being part of a Camphill Community in Ireland over twelve years ago, when I was introduced to Anthroposophy and Steiner education. After study and reflection, I committed to a journey that began with my oldest son joining the Kindy there, he is now in Class 8 at Raphael House and we have three more sons, two in the Lower School and one in Kindy.

I am known in the community by a number of people through my work on the Toy Food and Craft Festive Committee for a number of years and from sharing journeys with so many other parents in all the different classes.

Over the past few months I have given great thought to the original Parent Association and the aims of

the new PTFA. I have given consideration to the reasons why I have stood for election and why I as a parent have taken upon myself to stand up in the school the way I have in the past few months. I can honestly say it was for my children, for my friends' children, for our wonderful school Raphael House and for our beautiful teachers who give so much of themselves to encourage and inspire our children. I would like to see a three-sided relationship between the College of Teachers, Board of Trustees and Parent Association working as strongly as relationships between teachers, children and parents working hand in hand with a common focus – the children.

I offer optimism; enthusiasm, honesty, a sense of humor and an attitude of "if it needs to be done lets do it". I hope I may have the opportunity to work along side the members of the committee, community and school bodies on the PTFA.

Debi Lloyd

Statement about myself as a candidate...

World Leaders, Scientists, Vision-Creators, Musicians, Freedom Speakers, Writers, Problem Solvers, Real Doctors, Thinkers, Gardeners, Designers, Healers, Artists, Creators in their own right... and MY-OH-MY how the 'Earth' needs them right now!!! The children of the future. Our children. Their hopes and dreams are our hopes and dreams. To be a part of this osmosis is the epiphany of parenthood, embracing their journey with all the challenges and all the joys.

With the combined efforts of the community and a real focus on the full potential of Raphael House, I believe our school will soar to heights unimaginable!

Inspiration comes to those who are willing to fly.

Let us then 'LEAD THE WAY' for our children AND for ourselves.

Major transformations begin with just one positive thought!

Class Representative for 6 years.

A member of the new initiative 'Maori Support Group' within the school.

Topaz Class 3, Geena Class 5 and Brody Class 8.

Denny MacArthur

My daughter Sasha is in class one. We have been involved with the school for the past five years.

My main concern is that the children get the best possible service from their teachers and the school. I firmly believe that the special character and outlook of the school and it's community is a special entity which we must preserve.

We currently have a Ministry of Education Specialist Advisor and a Limited Statutory Manager working with the school. If things continue on as they are the MOE can put in an Administrator with far wider reaching powers.

The school is in a crisis which can be overcome (preferably from within rather than via too much MOE controlled input) so long as we ALL pull together to make it happen. This must be done with honesty, integrity, inclusiveness and transparency by all of the stakeholders involved at all levels. I believe any relevant past history should be explored and learned from - in a positive manner - to improve the present situation and so a brighter future can be delivered to the whole school community. Through good policy setting, robust governance and tight fiscal management we can achieve this goal.

Einstein's definition of insanity states - 'Do the same thing, expect different results'. To move forward some changes will probably have to happen and hard decisions taken. If this is so then any past and/or present differences of opinion and personal ego's and/or agendas will need to be set aside.

I see the PTFA as the community voice in the school hierarchy. It will be here to pass on feedback and concerns to the CoT, BoT and PEG. It will also be here to ask questions where necessary to clarify any issues arising from within the community.

I believe a strong collaborative relationship between all of the entities will move the school forward. To this end a strong PTFA working under a clear mandate from its membership is an absolute necessity.

I believe I can contribute to the PTFA as I am a strong personality (Choleric/Scorpio) who is passionate about education. I am willing and able to liaise with any other stakeholder to help forward the best interests of the school and community. I am also able to ask the hard questions and make hard decisions where necessary to the same ends.

Together, we, the community as a whole can create a clearer now and a brighter future.

Monica Brice

I have been involved with this school for some 14 years and know that it is the place for my children, the most precious things in my life.

This year my children span from the beginning of this unfolding journey, that of Waldorf education, to the end, with one of my youngest in Kindergarten and my eldest in class 12. I also have children in class's 1, 3 and 10.

I attended a Waldorf school for my primary education in England. I am an early childhood teacher and taught in the Wellington Steiner Kindergarten for some 7 years.

For the past 9 years I have been at home taking care of my children I believe in what this school is and what it can become, a strong united community who holds the vision of all that this school is, and can grow to be; in our hearts with truth and honesty, working together with love and commitment.

Richard Hale

Our youngest child Nathanael is Class 8 this year. We live on the Kapiti Coast and all our three children attended Te Ra, the eldest from the beginning of the school. It has been a tremendous experience to be involved with the creation of a Waldorf school and to have grown in our understanding of what a Steiner education has to offer. That experience has taught me how important it is for the parent body to provide effective support to our teachers. I was a member of the Board of Trustees through the early development period and recently joined the Kapiti Waldorf Trust. I would like to be involved with this parent's initiative, partly to provide a perspective from Te Ra but primarily to offer my own experience as a parent who has been involved in developing a new school initiative.

Dawn Bielak

I have had children at Raphael House for 11 years; they are currently in classes 9, 8, 5 and K1. I have had a keen interest in anthroposophy since I discovered it by accident in my teens and do my best to incorporate it in my family's lifestyle. I am half way through my science degree in psychology (Massey) and looking forward to studying for a Master of Educational Psychology after my science degree.

I would like to work towards keeping communication channels open to ensure all parents are heard so any issues can be resolved quickly with no judgement.