



## **The Weekly Newsletter of Raphael House Rudolf Steiner School**

**13 February 2009**

**Dear Parents, Caregivers and Friends,**

We have had a very positive start to the new term with children and classes now settled and busy with their new main lessons and practice lessons.

Preparations for the Upper School camps are well underway with most classes being away on camp in week 4.

Our School has, over many years, developed a wonderful outdoor education programme to help meet the needs of the developing child/student. Our intention is to be able to continue to develop this important curriculum area. We have a number of teachers very keen to be involved in this area which is fantastic.

The 2009 Parent Handbook will be sent out in Week 5.

Wishing you an enjoyable weekend,

**Karen Brice-Geard**  
School Co-ordinator

on behalf of the College of Teachers: Ray Shore, David Stephenson, Norbert Mulholland, Adam Ricketts and Margaret Sweaney.

### **FROM THE OFFICE**

If you have changed your phone number/work phone/home address/mail/cell phone details in the last few months please ring the office and leave the correct details, or email [fiona.d@raphaelhouse.school.nz](mailto:fiona.d@raphaelhouse.school.nz).

If your child is absent, please leave a clear message on the answer phone before 8.30am stating their name and class. Or alternatively, text on 021 516497, email [fiona.d@raphaelhouse.school.nz](mailto:fiona.d@raphaelhouse.school.nz).

### **SCHOOL PHOTOS - 20 FEBRUARY 2009**

Photo envelopes are being sent out this week. Each envelope/form is individually named so that you can complete the red box for class and/or individual photo for each child. Should you wish to have family pack photo i.e. 2 or 3 children together from the same family and in different classes please fill out the blue section only.

Should you have any queries please phone: Helen at Phoenix School Photos, [REDACTED] who will be able to assist you with any queries you may have. Please return envelopes to the school Lower Office by Thursday 19 February 2009. Spare forms are available from the Lower Office.

### **SCHOOL TRANSPORT ASSISTANCE**

Students may be eligible for school transport if they are under 10 years old and live more than 3.2km from the nearest school, or they are 10 years old and over and live more than 4.8km from the nearest school, and they do not have access to public service transport.

The Ministry of Education application forms are available from the Lower Office. Please complete the form and send into the Lower School Office so that they can be processed.

11 February 2009

**DEAR PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS**

**SPECIAL CHARACTER CONTRIBUTION (SCC) 2009**

Some parents have suggested that Raphael House is in breach of legislation in respect of the way it raises money by donations from parents. We have sought advice on the questions raised, both from the Ministry of Education and the Association of the Proprietors of Integrated Schools and wish to assure you that *the School has not breached the law*. This is also supported by the fact that neither the auditors of the Board of Trustees nor Trust accounts, have raised any questions in this regard.

Our current approach to funding school development has significant tax advantages for the community. However, we are aware of concerns expressed about this model and will explore other options with the community for the 2010 school year.

We thank those of you who have already returned your forms and acknowledge *the high level of support you have offered*. *If you have not yet returned your form, please do so as soon as possible and not later than Friday 20 February, so that the School can confirm its income for the year.*

We wish to assure you again of our absolute commitment to provide a high quality Steiner education for your children and we look forward to your ongoing participation in this partnership.

Yours sincerely

Paul Denford		Norbert Mulholland		Glen McCauley Deputy
Rudolf Steiner Trust		College Chairperson		Deputy Chair BoT

## **WHAT'S GONE HOME**

Class 9 Newsletter/2009 Timetable/Tongariro Camp outline

Class 11 Newsletter

Class 10 Wanganui River trip

Class 12 Camp information

## **CLASS 3 REQUEST 'CHORO' FLUES**

This year and we were wondering if anyone in the Upper School has any Flutes to donate/sell to us. Please ring Monica [REDACTED]

## **PARENTS LIBRARY**

The Parents Library is open on Wednesdays 8.30 - 9.30am. We're still looking for a volunteer to do one other morning. If you are interested please contact Magrita Freie telephone [REDACTED]

## **SPORT**

### **PRE-SEASON NETBALL TRAINING**

8-10 year olds Future Ferns - Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> Feb 4-5pm

11-12 year olds Mini Ferns - Wed 18<sup>th</sup> Feb 4-5pm

College 13 years + Tuesday 17 February 5-6pm

All at Taita Courts. Cost 30.00. Contact Philippa [REDACTED] if interested.

## **WHATS ON**

**SCHOOL LUNCHES** this term Georgia from Class 10 is fundraising for a German Exchange, she will be providing lunches in the Eurythmy Kitchen on a Wednesday. Pasta \$3.00. Apple Crumble \$3.00. Cake \$2.00.

## **CLASS 6 PEA straw FUNDRAISER**

Bales of Peastraw for sale \$10.00 per bale. Delivery...neg - Koha.

The Peastraw has been sprayed once in its growth, and may have weed seeds. Contact Maria [REDACTED]

## **THE ANNUAL WEETBIX TRIATHLON 8th MARCH AT LOWER HUTT RECREATION GROUNDS**

Registration closes on 6<sup>th</sup> March. Schools have been offered a \$2 discount per child if more than 25 students register. Registration can be done online. The event is open to everyone between the ages of 7 to 15. To complete the event children complete a swim, followed by a bike ride, followed by a run. They can enter on their own or as a team.

7-10 year olds. 100m swim, 4km bike ride, approximately 1.5 km run.

11-15 year olds. 200m swim, 8km bike ride, approximately 1.5km run.

The costs are: Individuals: \$35.00, Team (2 members) \$32.00. Team (3 members) \$29.00. Family of 2 \$32.00 each. Family of 3 or more \$29.00 each. For more information regarding this event visit [REDACTED]. If you like to register your child through the school, please contact Annette Terlau at school.

## **CHOROS**

**27 FEBRUARY - 1 MARCH**

Come and see Choros, the new performance of Crows Feet Dance Collective, in which 3 parents from school are performing. Jennifer Holdaway, Kirsty Winter and Magrita Freie. Choros is a sensuous, Bacchanalian revel danced to the fabulous "View from Olympus" by renowned Wellington Composer John Psathas. Wellington Performing Arts Centre, 36 Vivian Street, Wgtn. Book at Downstage ~~Wellington Performing Arts Centre, 36 Vivian Street, Wgtn. Book at Downstage~~ Get the gossip: ~~http://www.crowsfeet.co.nz~~

## **ADULT EDUCATION**

### **WATER, OUR HOLY TEACHER**

"God reveals Himself in His creations and whoever would know God must learn to know the true essence of these creations."

Dr. Rudolf Steiner, from the Stages of Higher Knowledge.

#### **Creative Renunciation**

Water does not demand for itself a specific form; it takes the form of the vessel into which it is poured. It does not have an "ego" but by not demanding a form, it creates a space that enables things to experience themselves. We know that in the physical world the greater the force we apply, the more we can "move mountains". If we want to bring about change in the physical world we need to show a strong will. However, in all true spiritual paths, there is a spiritual law to be mindful of, if we want to gain access to the spiritual world we have to completely let go of our own will, or egoism, and devote ourselves to the spiritual essence of what we want to understand.

Can we create a new space in order to contain, to perceive, to wonder? Some would call this the capacity for "unconditional love," the place in which the human being puts himself aside and says, "I, with my willing, my feelings, my thoughts, am not important now. I will let that which stands in front of me speak. I will turn myself to water." Water teaches us the force of renunciation. Not voiding myself out of lack of self-esteem but waiving my purely personal stance out of spiritual strength, out of creativity.

### **The Universal Womb**

We know from research about life that all forms of life known on earth must go through at least one stage of their cycle in liquid water. The embryo in the womb of the mother, the chrysalis before it transforms into a butterfly, Jesus in his Baptism in the River of Jordan when He received the Christ into his physical existence. The chemical reason for this is that water is an ideal medium for chemical reactions as each element feels safe enough that it can join or part with another element.

Can we learn from this "ultimate host" how to create a life-supporting space? A space in which each true meeting is done out of real listening, out of caring; where the inner and the outer find ways of self-expression; where it is legitimate to have doubts and to make mistakes. A space that does not dictate but enables, carries and supports the individuals who are in it. A sharp rock would transform into a softer, rounder stone until at the end it turns into grains of sand.

### **The Vortex**

In the physical world, in solid substances there is always a "power game" in space. When two solid objects meet in space, one of the following situations must occur, either one body pushes the other one, or they both break. When two human beings are wrestling, you either conquer space or you are pushed away from space or you wrestle until the bitter end.

When two strong streams of water meet in space, instead of going into a power game they start dancing around the "eye of their meeting". A new space is created, an open space that penetrates to the depths and enables a higher element - air - to penetrate.

Can we learn from this example how to meet our fellow human beings? How can we bring ourselves with all our might and accept into the space the full might of the other person so that we don't diminish one another? Can we, like water, enable the two forces to start dancing around a mutual centre? Can we invite into this centre a higher element than that which each one would bring alone if the meeting hadn't taken place?

### **The Never Ending Movement**

Water never stops moving, it always moves in cycles, in an eternal cycle. It forms vapour, it condenses into rain and then streams into rivers, to the sea, and from there back again into vapour. Only in one situation does it look like the movement stops, when water freezes, but then we see a phenomena which is called "the Anomaly of Water". In a solid state the mass and density of water is lower than its liquid form at 4 degrees Celsius. This means that ice does not sink but it floats

upon the heavier water, a situation that enables water (and life in Arctic areas) to continue to move and flow underneath the ice.

Can we learn from this movement something essential about healing forces as well as physical ones? Water asks us not to stop, not to solidify, not to sink down but to move, to change, to grow, to go through transformations, renewal, laughter and sorrow, breakdown and build up, death and resurrection.

### **The Forces of Resurrection**

In the high mountains, substance is taken out of the life cycle. Water goes over the surface of the earth in clouds, deep under the earth in groundwater and on the surface of the earth in familiar ways.

Soil does not go out of the life cycle. When water falls down as rain on high mountains it penetrates through small cracks into the hardest of rocks, but when it freezes it has the capacity to expand the cracks get bigger, the rocks break down and when the ice melts, the water carries the broken rocks down the mountain and they stream into rivers, where they become available to plants again. Water also brings minerals up through the roots of plants, which are fixed under the earth, and water also moves substances from place to place by its flow upon the earth.

Can we learn from water to see the world as one living organism? Can we be like water, which does not distinguish between nations, borders or closed spaces?

### **The Forces of Self Purification**

Whatever dissolves in water, at the end of the day will emerge back out of it again. Water has the capacity to take into itself many substances but only for a limited time. It lets processes happen within it (see "the Universal Womb") but it does not want to hold onto things. It does not need possessions, which is why on the banks of the rivers or ponds, water frees substances again. It cleans itself by evaporation or by throwing substances to the banks of rivers or seas. Water purifies itself only in order to be able to take in new substances in the future.

Can we learn in this way with matter, so that we always borrow, we never possess? Can we treat matter not as our own but as the world's possession, given to us only for a limited time, a loan to be returned and know that our journey continues without it?