

Weekly Newsletter of Raphael House Rudolf Steiner School

13 March 2009

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Friends,

Class 9 is away this week on camp in the Tongariro National Park. We hope that they are having good weather for their time away and look forward to their return next week.

Staffing

The College has received the resignation of Mikiko Hoya. Sadly Mikiko will be leaving us to return to Japan to support her mother and family. As you may know Mikiko's father died last term and she now feels she needs to be with her mother at this difficult time. We are very sorry to be losing Mikiko, she has been a valued teacher and colleague and she will be sincerely missed by all.

Special Character Contribution

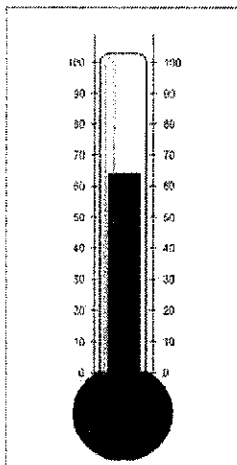


Figure 1 Percentage of Completed SCC Forms returned

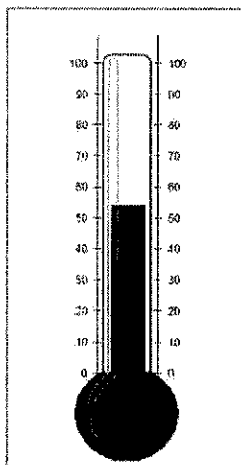


Figure 2 Percentage of Annual Request Pledged

These graphs show an update on the number of Special Character Contribution forms that have been returned and the amounts currently pledged for 2009. Thank you to those who have returned your forms. The fact that 85 families have still not returned their forms is of great concern as it is preventing us from confirming our income for the year and thereby threatening to compromise the educational services we provide. It is now critical that these forms, which confirm how much a family promises to donate to the School this year, are returned before

the end of this week. If you have misplaced your form please contact the Lower School Office and we will email or post a form to you.

Thank you on behalf of the College of Teachers the Trust, who are the Proprietors of Raphael House Rudolf Steiner School.

The Parent Handbook is currently with the printers and we will send it home to you as soon as it is returned.

Wishing you an enjoyable weekend,

Karen Brice-Geard

School Co-ordinator/Principal

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

FROM THE OFFICE

The Raphael Class is looking for a walkie-talkie and a CD player for their classroom. Please contact Babette or the office if you can help. Thank you.

UPDATE FROM THE BOARD

We are pleased to announce that Malcolm Baxter has been selected by the Ministry of Education as the Specialist Advisor for Raphael House. Malcolm will be starting his duties early next week. The Board, College and Trust look forward to the opportunity his presence offers to the School.

Malcolm has extensive knowledge and experience of both school governance and school management roles and responsibilities. He also is skilled in human resource management and mediation. Recently, Malcolm has had a role with a state integrated school that has allowed him to demonstrate a good understanding of and an ability to work with, special character features.

Glen McCauley

Chair, Raphael House Board of Trustees.

EXTRA CURRICULAR SPORT

JUNIOR TOUCH

Friday 13 th March	RH Class 5 vs EHS	Field 8 4.15pm
Friday 13 March	RH Class 6 vs OLRR	Field 3 4.45pm
Friday 13 March	RH Class 7 vs Muritai	Field 6 5.15pm
Thursday 19 th March	RH U16 Boys vs St Bernard Gold	5.15pm

Reminder that Winter sports notices can be dropped off any time. Please remember Class 6 and 7 Hockey are going through the HUTT CLUB NOT THE SCHOOL.

NETBALL

Chocolate fish to Eve Jones who has put her hand up to coach Class 7 netball. She is planning on attending various coaching courses and the umpiring course, so support her when she asks you to go along too!!!

Umpiring Classes Tuesday 14 April, Wednesday 15 April, and Thursday 16 April. 6.30-8.30pm and held at Taita courts. Please can we have a number of volunteers from each class, don't assume someone else will do it!

POLYPROPS

Black top and leggings have been added to the team uniform for the schools netball team. Be sure to have your plain white T-Shirt in your possession before the start of the season.

NATIONAL TRIATHLON CHAMPS

Being held in Hamilton this year. Anyone interested contact Jo at philandj@xtra.co.nz and I will pass on the details.

WAINUIOMATA MOUNTAIN RUN

Junior men and Women (Under 19) 4km run. Great pre-season training. Cost only \$5.00. Held on Sat 18 April. Forms are available from Fiona/Jo in the Lower Office. We hope a great turn out from our senior hockey, netball, soccer and basketballers!

BASKETBALL COACHING

A wonderful opportunity to up skill/practice, start to learn how to coach Basketball. Held at Walter Nash stadium in Taita the courses start next week on Tuesday 17th March it will run for 9 weeks and cost is \$5.00 per session. 6pm - 7.30pm for primary intermediate age coaches (Jo will be attending) and 7.30 - 9.00pm for secondary coaches (the legendary Simon Wall will be attending). So come and join us!!! No coaches no team.

UPPER SCHOOL SOCCER

Apologies to classes 8, 9 and 10 as the wrong email was sent. Whoops, a bit embarrassing. Please can anyone else join the team. We are now up to 11 but need a few subs pref about 4-5 to cover illness and other commitments.

we lost 135 books with a value of a third of our annual library budget. A mix of causes led to this loss, carelessness, misplaced books, forgotten books and stolen books. Brand new popular books go missing on their first issue. This is an awful waste of money and a sad loss for the users of the library. I would appreciate it if you could regularly discuss library use and responsibility with your children. Here are some important points:

1. School library books should be kept carefully inside desks or schoolbags while at School. If they are left lying around the classroom anything can happen to them.
2. At home, regular checks should be made of family bookcases, bedroom floors etc. All our library books have a Raphael House bar code on them, a Raphael House stamp (somewhere inside the cover) and a coloured band round the base of the spine.
3. School books should not be lent on, even to other family members. They should always be returned and reissued to the new reader.

SCHOOL FUNDRAISING

The ENTERTAINMENT™ BOOKS are back!!
The School earns 20% (\$11) from each sale.

Purchase your brand new 2009-2010 Entertainment book now to receive over \$10,000.00 in valuable offers, valid through to 1 June 2010. At the same time, you helping your community fundraising. Still only \$55.00 each.

Orders are now being taken in the Lower Office or contact: Alan Chapman, 569 5161; email: alan.c@raphaelhouse.school.net.nz Special bonus offers are available for the first 5 orders received!!!! This includes restaurant meals, and a complimentary Hurricanes vs Bulls pass, + much more.

FROM THE LIBRARY

I am looking at ways of tightening up our library systems so that fewer books go missing. Currently we are trying to get back all books that were issued last year. It is a tough job now that they are so overdue. If you have recently received a phone call or email from me about last year's books, please could you and your child locate and return those books immediately. It is a BIG problem once books are very overdue. The chances of retrieving them diminish with time. So I am planning to email parents as soon as their children's books are one week overdue. Last year

The long drive passed quickly, with four teenage girls in the car and a medley of music followed by silence, which allowed a contemplative drive, before a beach side stop and a "replenishing" gathering in Wairoa.

I had visions of a wild and remote place, Tuhoe territory in the heart of the Ureweras. Although the land feels ancient and timeless, we discovered that the Lake itself is only 2000 years old, formed after a giant landslide or earthquake blocked off the exit of a steep gorge system. Ancient forest can still be seen beneath the waves.

Our first night was spent in the cabins at the Lake motor camp; everyone in high spirits. The brave swam at dusk and then we had dinner. A late night playing cards was in store for some. With a new day, we repacked and were ready for the water taxi trip to Onepoto by 8.15am. As we sped along, a huge limestone ridge revealed itself opposite, climbing up from the Lake corner and marking our Day 1, well known, 'grunt' route. And so it proved, as we as we trudged the track, taking off layers of clothing, clambering over tree roots under handsome beech trees and being treated to panoramic views. It was a little unnerving to peer down and see we were standing on the edge of a cliff that was effectively up to 500m high in places. And so on to Panekiri Hut (an odd hut, better on the outside than in) for our first night, with the advance guard settling in and brewing cups of tea. Some other trampers arrived, mostly older professional couples who mingled with us in a most convivial way. On leaving the following morning they made a point of telling us that our students were a great credit and we should be really proud of them.

These were the thoughts I was having myself, too, as I watched how they carried themselves, alone and together, the cooperation, the maturity, the depth of spirit, the mutual respect and caring. These were the fruits of all the years they had spent together going through the School. It felt like a vindication of this whole path, the proof of the pudding, as they say...and here it was! These wonderful young adults who were about to spread wings and go out into the world and could impress others simply with their being.

After a weather check, Day 2 saw us going further along the ridge through moss-draped beech forest, before descending quite rapidly to Lake level. Quite unexpectedly we arrived at our next stop, Waiopapa Hut, probably the best hut we stayed in. Situated a stone's throw from the beach, it had a flat grassy area (for the Frisbee) and a warm modern spacious interior, with wood burner. The warmth invited a cooling, cleansing swim. Spirits were high, especially knowing that the most demanding part of the tramp was over.

Day 3 saw the longest tramp by distance, some 18km, but without too much climbing. We made it to Marauti Hut for another swim and some lunch and then on to Waiharuru Hut, for our last night on the track. Early the next morning about

half braved the cool of dawn to swim in the mist shrouded Lake, numerous black swans looking on as we made waves in their little Avalon.

On Day 4 we tramped past the Tapuaenui campsite with its nearby kiwi reserve, before finishing up at a beach, the agreed rendezvous point for our water taxi, where some swam, others rested. Suddenly we were skimming back over the water, landing back at the wharf where we started. On arrival we pitched tents, as the cabins were all booked, before the rain began. Hot showers were great, people now relaxed. A smaller enterprising group tramped to Lake Waikereiti, hired boats and rowed to an island, on which nestled another smaller lake!

I was up early the next day, keen to pack up the tent before the rain got heavier. We set then off in, meeting briefly in Napier, where a storm was blowing. And so back home to, perhaps, the end of the beginning. Quite an experience!
James Herdman (Dad, Class 12)

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Do you have asthma or breathing issues? Do you have asthma, sleep disorders, allergies, sinusitis, hayfever, stuffiness or other breathing issues? Do you want to work with your breathing? A remedial breathing course (based on Buteyko technique) is being offered at RH. If cost is an issue, ring [redacted] 18th, 19th, 23rd March 6.00-8.00pm.

ST PATRICK'S DAY CONCERT

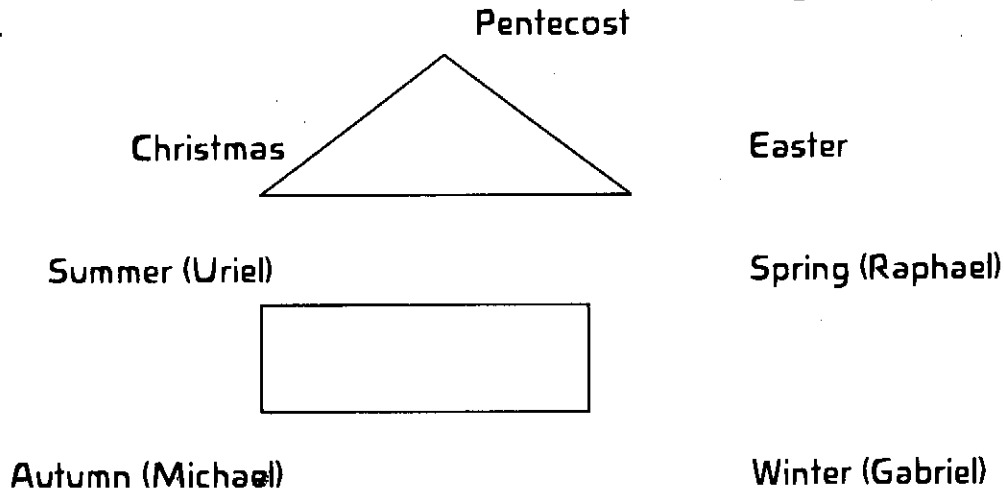
All students, teachers and parents are warmly invited to attend and enjoy a St Patrick's Day concert of Irish Music, Tuesday 17th March in the Eurythmy Room, 7pm. The purpose is to offer moving and enlivening music in a fun and warming community spirit. Amanda and Sean O'Connor are co-ordinating and will perform in the concert. Others who may be interested in performing in the concert can contact Sean: sean.o@raphaelhouse.school.nz (508 2222 4444). A Koha of appreciation will be invited for the performers and for the school Marimba Fund.

FESTIVALS

In his opening address to the first Waldorf School Teachers Rudolf Steiner gave them the task as educators to "Teach the children how to breathe"! Hence, our working with various rhythms with the children.

One major rhythm in our lives is the Cycle of the Year as we move through the seasons and to punctuate this cycle we celebrate Autumn, Winter, Spring and Summer. Rudolf Steiner describes co-operative action of four inspiring archangels which stand behind the seasons and give inspiration to human beings.

Festivals also celebrate the cycle of human life and this is connected with the three primary Christian Festivals of Christmas, Easter and Pentecost (Whitsun). Thus, we celebrate seven festivals in our School. This diagram may give some clarity.



In Term 1, we are preparing for our Autumn/St Michael festival, we celebrate the season and the harvest and invoke the strength and courage of the Archangel Michael.

The Myth picture of the Autumn experience is that of Michael with his sword of iron subduing the sulphurous dragon. On Thursday, 19 March, the whole school will celebrate our Autumn/St Michael Festival and on Friday the Lower School will celebrate with co-operative games. May we be inspired to clarity in consciousness and courage in action with warmth of heart in this time?

Ray Shore
 For the new Festivals Group
 (Irene, Phillip, Melanie, Ashley, Brendan, Ray)

QUIZ NIGHT

CONNECT CONFERENCE FUNDRAISER

Get together your team of 6 people for another exciting Raphael House

*** QUIZ NIGHT ***

Come and pit your wits against other Steiner know-it-alls

Fabulous prizes to be won!

Spot prizes!

Teams limited to 6 people = \$60.00 entry fee

Friday 20th March, 7.00-9.00pm

Eurythmy Room

For tickets and more information contact

[REDACTED]
 (For the Connect Crew 2009)

GREEN LIVING

Green Living 115 Jackson St Petone, has an exciting new range of craft supplies including natural play dough, wooden rolling pins, natural pencils, beeswax crayons, paint brushes, felt flowers and lots of other crafty bits. We also stock EcoTankas - stainless steel drink bottles, 350ml and 600ml perfect size for school and 800ml adult size too. Craft activities every Sunday suitable 3-6 year olds 1-3pm (\$4.00 per child) starts 15 March, (next to the Palace Cafe).

IN MEMORY OF A TREE

Once upon a time there was a white dove. It loved to fly above the forest. For many years it would fly each day, waiting.

One day, some friends sitting on a nearby hillside saw the dove. It understood what they were thinking and they knew. So they planted a tree that they had brought with them from the valley. As they watered it and watched it grow, the dove would settle in the upper branches. The tree grew bigger and bigger and started to grow large juicy fruits each year. Sometimes the foliage was so dense that the dove was hard to see. But the people who came to see the tree felt that it was still there. They joined in, adding compost, sweeping leaves, pruning and admiring the wonderful fruit.

Occasionally arguments broke out about the tree. One branch had been badly pruned and some of the compost had not been made properly. But still the tree kept growing and the dove watched contentedly from above. Many people who came hoped to glimpse the dove. Sometimes its feathers were seen, but occasionally it remained elusive and out of sight. "There is no dove!" came a shout one day. Many became alarmed, others uncertain. Some started to clamber into the tree and pull the branches aside to get a clearer view.

More and more the branches were broken and the tree started to wither. One night the dove flew silently back to the forest, out of harms way. The leaves began to fall off the tree, and soon people could see through to the sky beyond. Indeed there was no dove. Neither was there any fruit because the tree was dying.

Parents, luckily, our tree just needs watering and space to breathe.

Please truly be supportive and helpful to our wonderful school with your thoughts, words and deeds.

With thanks
Julian Thomson

CLASS 12 PROJECT CONCERT UPDATE

I'm [redacted] from Class 12 and for my project this year I am organising and running a fundraiser concert. I have chosen several communities from the Pacific Islands that are aligned to Trade Aid, they are in need of funding to kick start a sustainable future. Not only will my concert raise money to send to these groups, it will be a good opportunity to promote Fair Trade within our community. I am currently in the process of finding performers to be in my concert. This is really exciting for me, and so far the line-up makes for a great night of musical variety. If you would like to be involved in this event, singing or playing a tune or two, please contact me on 092 994 8846 or klobell@ihog.com. The date is May 16th at the Salvation Army Citadel in Vivian Street, Wellington City. Tickets will go on sale within the next month, and I will keep you regularly updated. Any questions or suggestions, please email me, I welcome all the support I can get. Cheers, E [redacted]

A LEAF FROM AMANDA O'CONNOR



Our Stories & Our School

*We have created
this space for
heart-warming
stories, poems
and pictures
about our
school.*

*If you would like
to contribute,
please send to
Kathy at:
[Triskat@xtra.co.
nz](mailto:Triskat@xtra.co.nz)*

How did our family find our way to Raphaël House and onto this community tree? An interesting question a friend and I were reflecting on the other day. Having trained in Montessori education, then taken on Glen Doman's ideas of "teaching your baby to read" it was quite a turn around when I enrolled my daughter at the Christchurch Steiner Kindergarten. In this veritable fairy garden play was the order of the day, not flashcards with words or numbers on them, and no name tags with the children's names on to pick up from the mat & read as she had done at the age of 2 1/2 in the Montessori preschool she had attended. It was through friends, the home birth antenatal group and that familiar feeling of "ah, this is right" on attending the Steiner School fair that the change came and how grateful the whole family is to have found it.

The term "found" is deliberate here because I remember hearing from a Steiner teacher around that, in her experience, Steiner schools don't advertise for students just as Steiner himself didn't evangelise about anthroposophy. He responded to questions about various aspects of life when they came to him. So it was with us that through staying open to the various twists and turns of life we found our way to the Christchurch Steiner School.

With a little bit of gypsy blood in us our children have attended 3 different Steiner schools and an American style international school in Venezuela. So how did we come to be at this particular Steiner school and why are we still here? On returning from our adventures overseas the whole family was in need of grounding and let's say healing. The other Steiner Schools in NZ that went up to high school were full with waiting lists and with much gratitude we accepted the places offered to us at Raphael House. The House of the Archangel most concerned with healing.

Robyn and Jen came to visit us together in our home in Stokes Valley and the connection was instant. With similar interests in music to us, the children took to them and 3 years of a settled, grounded and happy school life ensued. Robyn recently emailed A from India asking her to give a big hug to all his "petals" in class 8, Jen's deep love for her class was no less apparent at her farewell gathering last year and how she battled illness to be there for the children as long as she could. This dedication, love and connection can not be bought and yet it is a gift that will stay with my children forever. I am so grateful that we found our way to this profound and holistic education system and that we "found" Raphael House, Rudolf Steiner School where we can blow as leaves in the winds of change on this mighty community Kauri tree.

WHAT'S ON

AN INVITATION TO SING AT TE PAPA

Earlier this year my family and I recorded a CD entitled Waiata Mai Maori Proverbs in Song. These are proverbs, phrases and prayers which I have composed music for in rounds and harmony, sung in Maori and English. The songs serve as a bridge and a celebration between these two cultures growing together. My hope, over time, is to offer the songs as an educational and cultural resource for all people, and particularly for schools.

The songs and the CD are to be launched at Te Papa, 28th June on their Te Huka a Tai Whanau day (family day), as part of the Matariki festival. I am looking for singers who are keen to learn these songs and participate in the launch! If so, you will join the existing "Natural High" choir for up to 12 rehearsals. Monday nights in term time (except Queen's Birthday), 7:30 pm, 33B Korokoro Road, LH. ~~Phone 5~~
~~06 333 3333~~ ~~5333 3333~~ @xtra.co.nz.

HARVEST FESTIVAL 19th March

The pumpkins are plump and apples 'a' plenty!

Please send fruit and veges for our festival harvest table with your children to school

on Mon 16th → Wed 18th March.

MICHAEL DAY 20th March

Dear parents,

This year on Friday 20th we will be celebrating "Michael Days" with classes 1-7 in the lower

school participating in games of courage, as we fight the dragon! Please make sure

your children come with warm clothes, gum boots, raincoats and a spare set of clothes.

We look forward to seeing all your knights in shining armour.

Autumn Blessings

Thankyou
Festival Organisers

