



The Weekly Newsletter of Raphael House Rudolf Steiner School

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Friends,

20 February 2009

This week Class 5 is away on camp at Tatum Park Levin. The focus of the Camp will be Geography and History, we hope they have good weather and look forward to their safe return.

We would like to acknowledge the generosity of Grant Nicholson, the National Manager of Tech Restore, in providing us with replacement computers and monitors for our student Computer Lab. We would also like to make a special mention of Glen McCauley, who kindly set up the Computer Lab so that our students can utilise the computers from the start of the term.

A New Zealand Eurythmy Conference was held last week; this was hosted by Melanie Treadgold, Uta Stoll-Kuwilsky and the Wellington Eurythmists. For the first time in 14 years Eurythmists from around New Zealand met together to work artistically and participate in workshops exploring pedagogical and curative work. Two doctors and two speech artists also attended. Thank you Julia Milne who did a wonderful catering job. It was a successful and productive conference, and has inspired the creation of the Eurythmy Association and a commitment to run the Conference yearly.

Next week the Upper School will be away on camp:-
Class 8 are in the Wairarapa on a Cycle Camp
Class 10 will be enjoying the Wanganui River Trip
Class 11 are walking the Abel Tasman Track
Class 12 will be enjoying the sunshine at Lake Waikaremoana

We wish all our students and staff a safe trip and look forward to hearing about their adventures on their return.

Wishing you an enjoyable weekend with lots of sunshine,

Wendy Daals, Secretary

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

FROM THE OFFICE

STANDARD DISBURSEMENTS 2009

Kindergartners \$215.00 per year
Class 1-12 \$250.00 per year

Payments can be made to the office, please remember the office does not have EFTPOS facility.

If you wish to pay by internet or auto payment.

Account Number for Special Character Contribution (SCC) 03 0531 0379910 03

Account Number for Standard Disbursements 03 0531 0432785 05

Please state your family name and number. If you would like to confirm your family number please ring Kay at the office.

VEHICLES

A REQUEST TO THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY RE: VEHICLES

With the start of another year, it appears we need to remind the community about vehicle use around the School.

No vehicles are allowed to drive up the School driveway at the start or end of the School day, unless to deliver or collect a child for health reasons. This is only possible when prior permission is obtained for the School Co-ordinator/Principal or School Secretary.

Being late for School is not a valid reason!

Students driving to school must park their cars in the public car park on Matuhi Street.

Similarly, when using the Matuhi St area near the School to drop or collect children, please remember that this is a very congested area. Your children need to be brought and collected safely. This is best done, no matter what the weather, in the allocated car park area by the playground, *not* as close as you can get to the gates, including in the bus parking area.

You are reminded that:

"Raphael House Board of Trustees is committed to providing a safe physical environment and ensuring that it complies with any legislation currently in force or that may be developed to ensure the safety of students, employees and others who are on school property with the authority of school management." (BoT policy)

PLEASE DO NOT JEOPARDISE ANYONE'S SAFETY BY CARELESS CAR USE.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Wendy Daals
Health and Safety Officer

WHAT'S GONE HOME

PE Kit - Class 3-12

Class 10 Camp

NOTICE FROM THE KINDERGARTEN

Please note that the Kindergarten is in the process of becoming a fully licensed early Childhood Centre. Part of the regulations state that the Kindergarten facilities including the toilets cannot be used by school aged children, students and parents. We realize that this is a change and ask for your support in this matter.

Thank you
From the Kindergarteners

PARENT LIBRARY

New opening hours: Tuesday open 9am-10.00am and Wednesday 8.30am - 9.30am. Please do not borrow books outside library hours, though books can be returned outside these hours. If you are new to the school come along and have a look at our wide selection of books, and sign up.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES UPDATE

The Board of Trustees met for its first meeting for 2009 on February 16th. As a welcome change to past years we had 10 visitors to the meeting. The meeting minutes will be available in the Office after our March meeting.

The position of Chair person for the Board of Trustees is appointed annually. This year, the current Chairperson Catherine Ross decided not to stand for re-election in order to focus on her post graduate studies. We thank her for her commitment and leadership over the last 4 years. Glen McCauley was elected Chair for 2009.

It was with regret that we received the resignation of Maarten Quivooy from the Board. We thank him for his efforts over the months during which he was on the Board.

To ensure the Board complies with legislation relating to appropriate record retention and to simplify the process of communicating with the Board of Trustees, we have established 2 email accounts for electronic correspondence with the Board:

Chair@raphaelhouse.school.nz or

BoardSecretary@raphaelhouse.school.nz

These mailboxes will be cleared regularly and all correspondence recorded, retained and answered as required.

Please direct all email queries and requests to these mailboxes and not to the personal email accounts of Board members. Raphael House Parent's Association Steering Group.

RAPHAEL HOUSE WINTER SPORTS BROCHURE

Classes 5-12 please collect your Winter Sports Brochure from the Lower Office and return to the Lower School Office by 28 February. NO money is required at this stage we are just registering interest in these sports.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

COMMUNITY SINGING AT RAPHAEL HOUSE

We are pleased to announce the commencement of regular group singing sessions for the school community, led by the Music Coordinator Julian Raphael.

The aim is to help foster inter-personal and community spirit and understanding through the uplifting and healing powers within collective music-making. The sessions, which are free, are open to all students, parents and past students of the school. Songs will be drawn from a variety of cultures and styles and there is no requirement for people to read music.

The first session will be Monday 2nd March 6.30pm - 7.30 in the Eurythmy Room, and this will be followed by one on 23rd March. There will be no need to book in advance, just turn up and start singing.

CLASS 6 PEA-STRAW FUNDRAISER

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

The Pea straw has been sprayed once in its growth, and may have weed seeds.

PARENT CRAFT GROUP

The Craft Group is starting again on
Monday 2nd March
8.30-9am to 12 noon
In the Pole Room (under class 5)

All crafts are sold in the Toy, Craft and Food Festival each year with proceeds going to the school. If you enjoy making, or you always wanted to, this is an ideal way to contribute. I will guide you in different techniques through the year and we also learn from each other. This is both rewarding and enriching work, with the added bonus of knowing your crafts will be truly appreciated.

Wednesday evenings are an option if you can't make it to Monday mornings, or if you want to contribute but can't make it to either group, give me a call for ideas. Everyone is welcome and there is room for babies and young children.

Be Creative and Involved.

MARIMBAS FOR RAPHAEL HOUSE

Following on from last year's fund-raising events we are delighted to announce that our project to bring African style Marimbas to the school is being realised. Russell Matthews, New Zealand's foremost expert in African Marimba making and their music, will be in residence for 6 days from 27th February helping us to build a set of instruments. There is an opportunity for parents to attend the weekend workshops where Russell will teach us how to cut and tune the bars and make the resonators.

These will run on Sat 28th Feb and Sunday 1st March from 9.30am - 4.30pm. Places will be limited and so those who are interested should contact either me or Sean O'Connor. There will be a small charge for parents attending the weekend workshops although students can attend free. Julian Raphael

WANTED

Egg Shells wanted in abundance. Crack your eggs, enjoy your omelettes then collect the shells and drop off to the Brendan at school, or the Bus Garage and we'll have lots of fun making Cow Pat Pit (CPP) with gardening classes this year. Organic pref. Happy weeding and reaping. Brendan

CONNECT CONFERENCE 2009

Imagine 600 young Steiner students from all around the world who are about to finish school and present their Class 12 Project or Play. Bring them together to celebrate the end of a special and very informing Waldorf education, which has given them a part of their biographies that has been similar, wherever they are from. As a framework, add the Goetheanum, which will be an exhibition space for the students' Class 12 Projects and other artistic achievements. Imagine the building and its surroundings filled, alive and bubbling with presentations, exhibitions and class performances on the main stage!

In April 2009, an event like the one described above will take place. The Connect Conference in Dornach, Switzerland, where graduating Class 12 Steiner students

from all over the world will gather for workshops, interaction, and celebration of their shared experience of Waldorf education. The aim of the conference is to raise awareness of a shared future that we can create, and also to celebrate the completion of Waldorf education together with over 500 peers. This is the 4th year that the Connect Conference has taken place.

As part of the Conference, each student will have the opportunity to imagine how this common background has shaped their individual biography. The Connect Conference marks the transition from a time of learning about oneself to orienting oneself within society. The Conference gives young people the chance to acknowledge and celebrate this transition together.

This year, six Class 12 students from Raphael House will be attending the conference, which begins on the 18th of April. The students attending the conference are: Emma Brooky, Elwin Burger, Briana Forman, Rosie Herdman, Jake Smythe and Elli Yates. Teachers accompanying the trip are Karen Brice-Geard and David Stephenson. This is the first time that our school has attended this conference, and those involved agree that it is an exciting opportunity, and are anticipating and working hard towards preparing for the trip. The students, along with the much appreciated help of their parents and Karen, have been working hard to fundraise money for this trip. Over the next few months more initiatives are planned. Keep an eye out for the Connect Crew, and your support would be greatly appreciated.

Elwin Burger (For the Connect Crew 2009)

REMEDIAL BREATHING THERAPY

Workshops are being offered in March 2009 here at Raphael House for remedial breathing therapy book now. (Incorporating buteyko)

The well known work of Dr Konstantin Buteyko during the second half of the 20th Century has given additional impetus to Breathing Therapies. Dr Rudolf Steiner had said 50 years earlier: *'for this is a great secret: All the healing forces reside originally in the human breathing system'*.

John Wilson, (based in Australia) who has been a Buteyko Practitioner for 12 years offers this introduction to the benefits of such breathing therapies.

Some typical problems that can be helped are asthma, snoring, sleep apnoea, blocked nose, allergies, dental problems in growing children, learning and concentration difficulties and fatigue.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] request for the course brochure [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

March 18th 6.00pm-8.00/19th March 6.30 - 8.30pm/23rd March 6.00-8.00pm
individual visits of 2 hrs tba.

Venue: Eurythmy room, Cost: \$120.00

Contact person: Rachel Clarke [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

1

WHATS ON

QUIZ NIGHT

CONNECT CONFERENCE FUNDRAISER

Get together your team of 6 people for the first ever 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 entry fee

Friday 20th March, 7.00~9.00pm
Eurythmy Room

For tickets and more information contact [REDACTED]
(For the Connect Crew 2009)

A LEAF FROM TESS LABETT

Each day as Louie and I walked up the path to his school I could sense his body stiffening with each step. As we neared the classroom his and my eyes would brim with tears and we would both pretend our tears weren't there. One morning his tears spilled over as he entered his classroom and I heard his teacher bark at him "we're not having that nonsense in here Louie". He turned, walked out, I took his hand, and together we went home.

One morning Louie awoke and said "mummy I had this amazing dream". He pointed out his bedroom window to pine trees and said "a train, like an old train, with steam, it was red and black, it came out of those trees, and a man got out and started teaching me". When Louie had that dream, he had no idea that those trees belonged to Raphael House. It was much later that I read that Rudolf Steiner's father was a stationmaster and that Rudolf Steiner spent much of his childhood around steam trains. It was during Rudolf Steiner's train journeys as a young man that he learnt from someone he referred to as his 'master'.

The instant Louie and I stepped into Margaret's kindergarten I'm sure Louie grew as his heart lifted and his feet reached to meet the earth. Years later, each morning Louie and his sister Evie run down to the pine forest, amidst an eagerness to meet the day's challenges - with no tears.

I'm writing this on the very day our youngest child Bo has started in the kindergarten. When I arrived to pick her up she was completely oblivious to my presence as she was so busy placing all the chairs in a chain. A smile of satisfaction spread across Bo's face as she sat down on the leading chair. Julia grinned at me and said, "She's made a train", and I thought 'ah yes, and so her journey begins - with no tears'.



We are the
leaves of
the Kauri
tree...
Becoming
free
Being me

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