



## Weekly Newsletter of Raphael House Rudolf Steiner School

20 March 2009

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Friends,

Preparations for the Michaelmas Festival are well underway. The Festival will be celebrated on Thursday 19 March with a whole school assembly. On Friday the Lower School children will be participating in games.

The Connect Conference crew (Ellie Yates, Emma Brooky, Briana Forman, Rosie Herdman, Elwin Burger and Jack Smythe) are still busily fundraising for the Connect Conference in Dornach, Switzerland at Easter. The aim of the conference is to raise awareness of a shared future that young people can be involved in creating, to deepen an understanding of Waldorf Steiner education and to celebrate and share with many hundreds of Class 12 students from schools around the world. This will be a fantastic opportunity for our students to participate and share in this international conference.

The students and teachers attending are raising the funds entirely themselves, with no cost to the School. If you would like to make a financial contribution/donation for the trip, your support would be greatly appreciated.

Unfortunately, due to other work commitments Jo Llewellyn is unable to continue her role as Sport's Co-ordinator. If you are interested in this position, please contact Wendy Daals for a Job Description and Application Form. Ph: 569 5161 [wendy.d@raphaelhouse.school.nz](mailto:wendy.d@raphaelhouse.school.nz).

You are invited to attend another Community Singing event on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, between 6.30 and 7.30pm in the Eurythmy Room. If you missed the last one, fear not, but come along and have a good sing of songs old and new. Four part harmony, too!

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**

Congratulations to Tania [REDACTED] on the birth of her baby boy, we hope to see little Dominic James soon, he is 3 weeks old now.

### **WHAT'S GONE HOME**

Class 12 email

### **EXTRA CURRICULAR SPORT**

Please collect your **WINTER SPORTS BROCHURE** from the Lower Office, if you wish to take part in a sport this 2009 year. Teams need to be registered quickly.

### **MOUNTAIN BIKING COLLEGE CHAMPS**

Forms are now available from the lower office from the Lower Office on ~~www.kidsbikejams.co.nz~~ Held at Wainui High School, 5th April. Cost \$10.00-\$20.00 depending on if you are a member of the PNP. All ages but riders under 12 must be accompanied by an adult (free of charge).

## **UNDER 13 KIDS BIKE JAM - 10<sup>th</sup> MAY**

Forms are available from the Lower Office. Ages 5 - 13 boys and girls races. Held in Trentham Memorial Park, Upper Hutt. Costs and online registration discounts, so \$20.00 and \$26.00? per child.

## **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 help 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 complimentary Hurricanes vs. Bulls pass, + much more.

## **COMMUNITY NOTICES**

### **RAPHAEL HOUSE STEERING GROUP NOTICE**

The Steering Group would like to thank those who responded to the recent questionnaire about the need for establishing a Parents' Association. The deadline for responses was 18th March. A report of the findings of the questionnaire will be circulated during the week beginning 30 March.

In response to some questions received, we wish to repeat that the Steering Group does not represent the interests of any particular group within the School community. Its sole objective has been to ascertain the views and wishes of the community (via the questionnaire), to report back with recommendations, and then propose the next steps. If, and when, a RHRSS community or parents' association is set up, the Steering Group will be dissolved, having no further reason to exist.

Regards, Rachel Clarke, Jacqui D'Ath, Marie Deery, Lut Hermans, Richard Howard, Kym Kiddie, Helen Lewis, Philip Mirkin, Jaia Ocean, Amanda O'Connor, Maarten Quivooy, Winston Roberts, Julian Thomson (members of the Steering Group)

**20<sup>th</sup> MARCH QUIZ NIGHT, IS CANCELLED. From the Connect Crew 2009.**

**Remember School lunches on Wednesday: Pasta and Apple crumble \$3.00**

### **WALDORF COOKBOOK**

It has taken years of hard work, but The Waldorf Cookbook is finally finished and available for purchase. The Waldorf Cookbook includes recipes from Waldorf families, teachers, staff, and homeschoolers from around the world, and contains some of the most cherished recipes in the Waldorf tradition. For those of you that contributed and donated recipes to make this wonderful book a reality, I am offering a special coupon from 15% off the cover price. When you order, be sure to enter in the code "3Y86PBSW" at checkout. Here is the link to purchase the cook book <http://www.waldorfbible.com/777-3007> Blessings, Kelly Sundstrom

### **FEIJOAS, LEMONS, AND PLUMS**

Do you have any fruit trees with excess fruit? Would you consider bringing along a bag or 2 to the cafe at the bus garage on Thursday mornings to sell/share? Thank you. Want fruit? Come along on Thursdays and see what's on offer.

## **A LEAF FROM MIKE AND VICTORIA**



### ***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)***

Recently I have been thinking about values. There have been lots of expected & unexpected expenses in our lives recently, making us think about what we truly value, and what our core priorities are. Really I don't have to look far to find them. I see my little daughter H., after two beautiful years at kindergarten, newly starting Class 1, led by the hand of a lovely young woman beginning her own special journey as a class teacher. She is surrounded by bright young hearts and minds, encouraged to live in a world of magic and mystery, celebrating the natural world, the seasons, festivals & traditions; all those things that make life rich. I see her

little sister L., so excited about starting kindergarten, beginning her own social journey, and I know that this decision of ours for our children to attend a Steiner school is one of the most valuable gifts we can give them.

I remember a friend's child at the age of 6 coming home from school having been instructed by the class teacher to watch the 6 o'clock news for homework (so inappropriate for such a young being), & in contrast I see my 7 year old at home in the afternoon, practising her form drawing, not because anyone has suggested that she should, but because she is so excited by what she is learning at school. I was so heartened to hear in our first parent teacher meeting this year, from Ray and Purdy that sustaining the innocence and magic of childhood is a big priority at this age.

Steiner had enormous wisdom regarding the evolution and development of the individual, recognising that at each age certain things are relevant and appropriate. I like the conscious approach to teaching and learning that arises from his educational philosophy. The curriculum seeks to let children develop in a holistic way, and this shows through in all sorts of ways. When I was tutoring first year University students some years ago, I really noticed how the young adults who had come through the Steiner system, were so much better equipped to participate in discussions, not afraid to ask questions, there to actively learn rather than just be taught a big raft of information. Clearly those students had experienced

something special.

I am looking forward to sharing my daughters' journey into adulthood and I know that whatever they chose in life, their time at Raphael House will have been a strong and positive experience. I thank the teachers and school community for their enormous commitment and dedication.

### WHAT'S ON

**JUMP** Jump! Into Reality. Young people from across the globe are coming together to share their ideas in a search for reality. This International Youth Conference is being held in Melbourne, Australia for the first time at the Sophia Mundi, Inner-city Steiner School. Five days of workshops, lectures, entertainment and creating new and exciting friendships. The day will begin with presentations from the fields of philosophy, indigenous culture, medicine, religion, politics and history which all explore the topic of 'Searching for Reality'. manipulated food'. The cost of the JUMP! International Youth Conference \$290.00. This also includes accommodation, breakfast, lunch and dinner. If you would like to register or find out more, ~~simply go to www.southislandyouth.org or contact Reverend Veronika~~  
~~Plantinga (06) 478 1234~~

### A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY

There will be a combination of presentations, workshops and hands on learning opportunities. You will learn from other New Zealanders about projects from around the world, explore the stages of development for a community project and ways of creating good community relations among a variety of groups. Your ideas will become bigger and better!

#### Kaupapa:

This gathering will be in the spirit of learning, sharing and being inspired. We will explore the many ways art can be utilized as an effective tool to enhance a community development process. Further info ~~0274 853 138 or email: ~~spirit@sfy.org.nz~~~~ Our facilitator Ann Thorsteinsson is an artist whose passion is to inspire creativity and to build community through the arts. She has an international reputation for her work and infectious enthusiasm for community. Ann's background in teaching the arts; training as a muralist and illustrator gives her an opportunity to connect people and projects together that have substantial impact on surrounding communities.

Te Piringatahi o Te Maungaarongo Marae Wellington 8-9 April 2009  
(Wed 9am-Thurs 1pm) Tapu Te Ranga Marae, Island Bay