



Raphael House, Rudolf Steiner School

Term 4, Issue 31
23 October, 2009

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Friends,

We welcome the following students to Raphael House:

Holly Smith - Class 7

Liam D'Lima - Class 3

Jemima Willey - Class 1

George Macted-Willey - Kg 1

Tamara Arndt and Cecil Kraus who are exchange students from Germany, they are in Class 10.

Community Meeting

Thank you to all those parents who attended the Community Meeting last Wednesday evening. It was wonderful to have such a good number attend the meeting (over 100). We were able to clarify areas of finances, curriculum and staffing entitlement as well as short to medium term facility needs for the School. We will also operate a balanced budget, with a planned small surplus, based on the Operational Funding the School receives from the government for 2010 plus Disbursement (\$250 per child).

The slides and notes made during the evening should now be available for viewing at <http://www.raphaelhouse.school.nz/community-and-parents/community-reporting/community-meeting-notes172.html>.

We will provide the Waldorf Education dimension up to the level the Community supports, via the Special Character Contribution and other fundraising activities.

The School has made an undertaking to continue to hold Community meetings and to have ongoing dialogue in 2010.

Wishing you all an enjoyable long weekend.

Karen Brice-Geard

School Coordinator on behalf of the College of Teachers: Ray Shore, David Stephenson, Julia Sherriff and Margaret Sweaney

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2009

October/November/December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
25 Week 3	26 LABOUR DAY HOLIDAY	27 BOT Meeting 7pm	28 Cl 7 Cl 6 Parent Meeting 7.30pm	29 PTFA Meeting (HW Rm) 7.30pm	30 Cl 12 Festival Song 7.30pm	31
1 Week 4	2	3	4	5	6 Reunion '09' Weekend	7
8 Week 5 Toy, Craft Food Festival	9 Cl 2 Parent Evening 7.30pm Cl 5 Greek Olympics	10	11 Cl 3 Parent Meeting 7.30pm	12	13	14
15 Week 6	16	17 Cl 4 Parent Evening 7.30pm	18	19	20	21
22 Week 7	23	24 Cl 9 Find Your Limit Camp	25	26	27	28
Week 8		1	2	3 Cl 12 Play	4 Cl 12 Play	5 Cl 12 Play Cl 8 Threshold Camp
6 Week 9	7 Cl 10 Surveying Camp	8	9	10	11	12
13 Week 10	14 Kings Pageant Eury Rm 7.30pm	15 Cl 12 Reflection Evening 7.45pm	16 Last day of School for 2009 12.30 finish	17	18	19

UPDATE FROM THE RSS TRUST

The Trust has now completed a report on the activities it and the Proprietors' Executive Group have undertaken so far this year. This, along with notes from the latest PEG meeting, will be posted on the School's website, (on the Community and Parents/Community Reporting page). There will also be information on the website showing the Trust's presentation at the recent Community meeting which includes information on our proposed building development plans for the next 5+ years.

Letters will be sent to families giving details of the requested donation to the Trust for 2010, i.e., the Special Character Contribution. This letter includes a form on which you can record your donation for next year. We ask that this form is returned by 16 November, 2009.

Paul Denford
on behalf of the Trust

UPDATE FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Thank you to all who attended the Community Meeting on Wednesday 14 October. The slides and notes made during the evening should now be available for viewing at <http://www.raphaelhouse.school.nz/community-and-parents/community-reporting/community-meeting-notes172.html> along with the notes and slides for previous Community meetings.

The next Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, 27 October in the Heide Werth Room. The start time is delayed until 7:15 to allow time for the Board to meet the PTFA Committee.

Glen McCauley
Chair, Board of Trustees, Raphael House Rudolf Steiner School

NOTE FROM THE PTFA COMMITTEE

Members of the PTFA are reminded that if they have any questions/comments about the information presented at the 14 October Community Meeting, and the School's ability to continue to offer a Waldorf curriculum then they are encouraged to send a brief note of these questions/comments to the Committee urgently (by email to our gmail address, or by speaking to a Committee member), so that the Committee can collate and analyse all comments next week and follow up any issues raised with the School as appropriate.

Monica Brice 587 0336
Catharina Fisher 589 0556
Denny MacArthur 021 245 9792
Winston Roberts 565 1948

Marie Deery 589 2020
Richard Hale (04) 905 8492
Maarten Quivooy 977 0291

KEEP SATURDAY 21 NOVEMBER FREE FOR A QUIZ NIGHT

The PTFA are organising a fun filled evening with prizes and merriment to begin winding down the year. Start thinking who will make up your teams of four to six people, School Community and friends all welcome for this informal gathering of brain teasing and mirth. More details to follow in near future.

FUNDRAISING NEWS

COOKING CLASSES

The next Fundraising activity is a series of Cooking Classes, starting with three Vegetarian Cooking classes from 12 November. See the Vegetarian Cooking Class notice below. Other activities are being planned, and you are welcome to submit ideas or offers of help to us at: fundraising @raphaelhouse.school.nz

Chris Penman, for the Fundraising Group.

VEGETARIAN COOKING CLASSES - LEARN HOW TO MAKE EASY, DELICIOUS, NUTRITIOUS VEGETARIAN FOOD FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

As part of the fund raising activities for the school, we will be holding 3 sessions of Vegetarian Cooking classes this term.

Thurs 12 November
Thurs 26 November
Thurs 10 December

There will be a maximum of 8 spaces per session so book your place now to avoid disappointment. All the sessions will be in the Eurythmy kitchen, starting 6.30pm until about 8.30pm. They will be full of practical tips with helpful resources on nutritious and delicious veg cooking for all the family, run by 2 school parents who are experienced in Vegetarian Cooking classes. The format will be one of watching the food preparation with lots of verbal interaction! To book your place or if you have any queries please e-mail: aryan @ihug.co.nz

FROM THE OFFICE

The recent tsunamis have given us reason to review our Civil Defence and Health and Safety procedures. We realise that we are currently unable to know exactly who is on site at any one time. We have made the decision to deal with this risk. We will be asking all parents and other visitors to sign in on arrival and sign out on departure, at the Lower School Office. We realise this is an extra task for everyone, and for everyone's safety we need to have more reliable processes.

LAST CALL FOR SPORTS UNIFORMS. Please return all sports uniforms to the Lower School Office, ASAP. Upper School Netball team, 4 uniforms still to be returned, Upper School Netball team 2, seven more uniforms to be returned. Upper School Basket Ball team, four to be returned. Upper School Netball Team Kapiti, seven to be returned. Please have a look for your uniforms this long weekend and return them to the Lower School Office on Monday. Thank you.

Phoebe, Sports Co-ordinator.

ADULT EDUCATION

At the last Community meeting it was clear that we, as parents, need to fully understand what our School's curriculum. We need to know why it is important, and how it works, so that we as parents can have a clear understanding of what we choose for our children. This will help know what that means for us as individuals and as a Community.

The Adult Education group is a group of people that have taken up the task of offering opportunities for the parent and wider Community. The aim is to understand what a Waldorf Education means, how the child develops and how the Curriculum addresses the needs of the child in each stage. Out of this continual deepening of our understanding comes our inspiration and enthusiasm to support the School, the teachers and our children.

At the end of this year a few people of this group will take a break or are called to other duties. We are looking for some enthusiastic people to help organise the Adult Education programme. Help us to inspire and grow the warmth of enthusiasm in our community. If you are interested, please contact a member of the group:

COMMUNITY NEWS

REUNION 09 – You are invited!

All parents at the School are invited to attend the 30th Anniversary Reunion Celebrations. Come along to one or both of the evening social functions on the weekend 6-8 November, enjoy being a part of this important occasion. Details and registrations through the website at www.raphaelhouse.school.nz/reunion09.html or phone Catharina Fisher on 589 0556 or Chris Penman 566 4977. We look forward to seeing many parents there.

Chris Penman, for the Reunion09 committee, (reunion09@raphaelhouse.school.nz)

TOY, CRAFT AND FOOD FESTIVAL

We are looking for students to perform on the main stage this year at the Festival. Come and share your beautiful music with the Community. Call Amanda on 589 2004 to book a slot.

We will be Community Weaving this year at the Festival and all members of the Community are invited to bring fabric to weave into it. If you have some special fabric or any spare fabric that you want to use please cut it into strips to add to the overall piece.

We will need lots of flowers and greenery on the weekend of the Festival to help create the festive atmosphere, please bring anything you have to offer on the weekend of the Festival, all kinds of greenery, large flowers for vases and small flowers for garlands.

Remember to collect gold coins for activities!

Below is the list of food requested for the Family Café and Cake Stall.

CLASS	FOOD TO BRING
C1	Cheese recipes – scones, muffins, mini quiches etc
C2	Pizza – especially Greek themed
C3	Pizza – especially Greek themed
C4	Breads, sweet and savoury
C5	Meats, cheeses, salads, nuts, hummus, gluten and dairy free recipes
C6	Vegetable platters, sticks
C7	Vegetable platters, sticks
C8	Breads, sweet and savoury
C9	Cake, slice or biscuit
C10	Cake, slice or biscuit
C11	Cake, slice or biscuit
Raphael	Cake, slice or biscuit
	Cake, slice or biscuit

Many thanks,
Jacqui D'Ath on behalf of the Toy, Craft and Food Festival Organising Group

SAVING THE ART OF HANDWRITING

The 21 September '2009 issue of the Guardian had a very interesting article by Umberto Eco entitled: The Lost Art of Handwriting (since withdrawn due to an expired web right).

In this essay Eco sees the demise of handwriting in the West as a definite cultural loss. Among other things he draws attention to the value of hand-eye coordination required for handwriting and also says what many calligraphers have maintained: that the ballpoint pen brought about a crises for handwriting. The ball pen slips across the paper too quickly unlike the conventional nib; say a fountain pen, which offers enough drag or resistance for us to form letters correctly. For Eco, writing when produced with a ballpoint, "no longer had soul, style or personality". Interesting words, indeed. But do we care, now that so much that was previously hand written is now tapped out and processed through digital devices? Does it purely come down to a question of aesthetics?

In Bagdad, Iraq, in 2007 a man named Khalil al-Zahawl was gunned down outside his home. He was a revered and beloved calligrapher and writing master. There was national outrage and mourning over his death, such was the esteem held for this fine calligrapher. But it was also seen as an attack on culture. Throughout Asia, too, calligraphy is still held in the highest regard as an art form. In the West the pressure of technology has overwhelmed handwriting and degraded. This is the point where it is seen as something that will eventually be superseded and made redundant by digital devices. Its place as a cultural artifact is on the extreme margins at best.

There is something remarkable about a hand written communication. When we receive a handwriting letter from someone it is so different from perhaps the same words being typed or emailed. When we look upon handwriting, we are experiencing the trace of a particular human hand, unlike any other. When I was at the British Library a number of years ago, I was in a room that displayed the hand written letters and documents of historic figures, such as Queen Elizabeth 1, Mary Queen of Scots, Captain Cook and so on. One could feel a link, a connection to the author of these artifacts through living into the personal and particular forming of their writing. When writing, we each shape the letters of the alphabet in our own unique way, despite following the models we have been taught. Again, this is remarkable!

When we learn to write, we are working down into our etheric body, (our body of formative forces) much as we do when learning how to ride a bike. When we gaze upon handwriting we are experiencing more than just marks upon a page: we are experiencing the physical trace, or journey, of the writer's etheric body. This experience is not present with mechanical writing. I have a friend who has beautiful writing and he tells me that it astonishes him how many people remark in admiration about his writing and express the wish to be able to write as well. Interestingly, he says that most of these are

young people. Clearly, they are touched in a way that mechanical text will never achieve.

Handwriting is a way of personal expression and is something we can evolve, style-wise, throughout our entire life as an addition to our armoury of digital skills. Over and above the message we are communicating we can add something that is personal and unique. We can look upon our children's handwriting as an evolving, emerging individual form of expression this can help them to humanize their interaction with others. We may be getting less and less opportunities to use this craft but it is of value to us to exercise this skill never the less.

Karen Brice-Geard

Part 2 to follow next week

PARENT CRAFT GROUP

CONTRIBUTIONS

A reminder to all Crafters out there that it's time to be finishing off things. Getting them to me at least a week before the Festival gives me time to price and display them with the care they deserve. Contributions can be left in the Lower School Office, clearly labelled for the Parent Craft Group or with my name. Thank you so much for what has been received so far. Your work makes many people happy.

MATERIALS FOR DECORATION

There used to be a large stock pile of materials for this purpose, donated and collected over the years. Last year when it came time to decorate for the Festival it was found to be very much reduced in size and nobody seems to know where it all went. If you have any material please let me know as a lot of people will shortly be looking for it. Or if you can donate or lend some this would be wonderful. If it's a loan, please name it carefully for easy return and leave in the Lower School Office labelled clearly with my name. I will make sure people have access to it.

Jennifer Holdaway, Parent Craft Group Coordinator, 972 3010, Jenh @paradise.net.nz