



Raphael House, Rudolf Steiner School

Term 4 Issue 32
30 October, 2009

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Friends,

I hope you all had an enjoyable long weekend. The fine weather makes such a difference.

This week Class 12 will be performing their Festival of Song and we wish them all the very best for the performances.

The Toy, Food and Craft fair is a week away now and we are all looking forward to this event.

The group organising the School Reunion 09 are also very busy with what looks to be some fantastic events over the weekend.

Wishing you all an enjoyable weekend.

Karen Brice-Geard

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

TOY, CRAFT AND FOOD FESTIVAL

Hello everyone,

With the Toy, Food and Craft Festival now only one week away there are a few last bits and pieces to be sorted.

- 1) We need sliced wood branches for Weaving, about 17cm long x 8-10 cm wide; can anyone help? And don't forget your fabric strips for the Community Weaving.
- 2) There will be some additional emails coming through in the next few days leading up to the festival. Please look out for them, and read them.
- 3) We have taxi shuttles running from Melling Station car-park between 9:30 and 11am and then again from 2 - 3:30pm. Please use them rather than parking along Matuhi Street if that works for you. That would leave room for visitors from outside school and also keep a safer road environment around school.
- 4) We also have the usual taxi shuttle up and down the driveway.
- 5) All prospective buskers please add your name to the list in the Lower School Office window.
- 6) If you have any expenses you need to be reimbursed for please put receipts in an envelope addressed to Fiona Angus including your name, the class the expenditure relates to, what the money was spent for and your contact details. Please leave the envelope with the Lower School Office.
- 7) Please remember to bring flowers and greenery on the Saturday before the fair. They will need to be dropped off at the Woodwork room.

<u>CLASS</u>	<u>FOOD TO BRING</u>
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

PTFA COMMITTEE

Monica Brice	587 0336	Marie Deery	589 2020
Catharina Fisher	589 0556	Richard Hale	(04) 905 8492
Denny MacArthur	021 245 9792	Maarten Quivooy	977 0291
Winston Roberts	565 1948	Succino Vermeltfoort	021 027 96944
Julian Thomson	565 3644		

Don't forget the Raphael House School Community 'Quiz Night' on Saturday 21 November, make up a team, and wait for full details. Hold the date! Details coming soon.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

NEW TRAFFIC RULES

People may want to know the details with regard to the use of mobile phones in cars from 1 November. Check out:

<http://www.nzta.govt.nz/publications/road-user-amendment-2009/index.html>

In brief:

"From 1 November it will only be legal to use a mobile phone to make, receive or end a call when driving if:

- the driver does not have to hold or manipulate the phone to do so (i.e. phone is completely voice activated), or
- the mobile phone is securely mounted to the vehicle and the driver manipulates the phone infrequently and briefly.

The rule does not allow drivers to create, send, or read text messages under any circumstances."

Alan Chapman
Resource Manager

REUNION 09 - REGISTER TODAY!

All parents of 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, and enjoy being a part of this important occasion.

Registrations needed today and are 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

LEARNING TO WRITE IN A STEINER SCHOOL

The Waldorf approach to teaching the child to write follows a path that recalls the evolution of written forms from early civilizations i.e. a pathway from pictures such as cave drawings of natural objects, to Egyptian hieroglyphs (ideograms) to the phonetic Roman alphabet we use today. We endeavor to avoid teaching the children the symbols of the alphabet as abstract, intellectual marks on a page but rather to allow these forms to evolve out of an artistic experience connected to the world they know. This way the child gradually advances from the artistic to the intellectual, from painting and drawing to writing and reading. It is a pathway that moves from the heart; love and enthusiasm, to the hand; learning to shape the forms, to the head; using the symbols as instruments of thinking. It is interesting to note that writing and drawing have the same origin. This may be seen in the fact that the words for writing, drawing and painting have a common root in many languages.

Through story telling, form drawing and Eurythmy the children discover the straight line and the curve, the archetypal shapes that make up our letterforms. By moving these in Eurythmy the child experiences them in their entire body. Out of these pictures and experiences a 'gesture' is found for the appropriate letterform eg. a painting of mountains might suggest the letter 'M' and so on.

At first the children are introduced to the capital letters only. Over time, and once the children are familiar with the capitals; they can be introduced to the smaller letters and script writing. Historically the small letters evolved from the large ones principally through the evolution of writing materials which also allowed faster writing and thus the gradual modification of letter forms.

I have discovered that in some ancient societies writing was considered a dangerous act. Writing down ideas, especially religious ideas, was to harden and

imprison them into matter and thus they would lose their living quality. The 'idea' would be fixed into one meaning only when written down. Julius Caesar has recorded that the Druids would never write down their sacred knowledge because it would weaken the insight of the priests and ruin their power of memory.

These ancient cultures were aware that written word has deadening forces inherent in it connected to the intellectualization of 'living' ideas and we can see how the monastic scribes as late as the seventh, eighth and ninth centuries imbued their hand crafted gospels with many exquisite pictures in an attempt to ameliorate these effects. On the opening pages of their illuminated manuscripts they would often create page-size letterforms that were a maze of extraordinary patterns; weaving knot forms, animals, humans, strange creatures and swirling forms reminding us of the movement of air and water. Thus the abstract deadening symbol, the letterform was enlivened by forms representing the world of humans and the elemental world of earth, water, fire and air. This was done in an attempt to enliven and resurrect the written word of God. The letterform was both abstract symbol and part vibrant picture full of imaginative life and movement. Even today these surviving books overwhelm one with awe and a feeling of reverential respect.

So our method of teaching the child writing through a pathway from painting to drawing to alphabetic symbol, fully engaging the imagination of the child and then gradually the intellect is in full accord with the development of the child itself and also resonates with the experience of our own evolution as conscious human beings since times long gone.

Karen Brice-Geard

PARENT CRAFT GROUP

This is a last reminder for any crafts you have been making for the Parent Craft Room. Even just one small item is wonderful to have. Please leave in the Lower School Office, clearly marked. Many thanks for all your help.

Jennifer Holdaway

jenn@paradise.net.nz, telephone 972 3010

WHAT'S ON

YOGA IN DAILY LIFE RETREAT

13 - 15 November 2009 at Riverslea Retreat, Otaki Gorge. A weekend of Yoga, Meditation, Yoga Nidra (Relaxation), Inspirational Talks and Delicious Food. Investment: \$250 / \$225 (concession). Contact: YIDL on 04 801 7012 or visit www.yogaindailylife.org.nz

4 DAY INSIGHT MEDITATION RETREAT

19 - 23 November 2009 at Riverslea Retreat, Otaki Gorge. This retreat is suitable for both those new to meditation and those with meditation experience, and will include sitting and walking meditation, evening talks, instruction and time for discussion. Contact: Jeremy on 06 377 1788 or jeremylogan@slingshot.co.nz

4 DAY ZEN MEDITATION RETREAT LED BY PHIL SHINKO SQUIRE

9 - 13 December 2009 at Riverslea Retreat, Otaki Gorge. This retreat includes sitting and walking meditation, dharma talks, interviews with the teacher, chanting, work practice and rest periods. The sesshin is suitable for beginning and experienced Zen students and full instruction will be given. Cost: \$60/night includes meals and accommodation. Contact: Phil 021 215 5565 or shinko@clear.net.nz

MATARIKI RUDOLF STEINER KINDERGARTEN

Matariki Rudolf Steiner Kindergarten Intends to celebrate its 25th Anniversary in March next year. The date has not yet been decided, but we are endeavouring to contact as many people as possible who have been connected with us in the past, so that we can send out invitations and information when these are available. If you are interested, please contact us, via Helen, email: sboley@paradise.net.nz. If you are able to bring this to the attention of someone else who may be interested also, we would be grateful.

Helen Boleyn

VACANCY

Michael Park Rudolf Steiner Kindergarten Auckland
Early Childhood Trained Teacher required 2010

We are seeking an early childhood teacher for our Rudolf Steiner kindergartens. The ideal applicant would be artistic and creative, have good communication skills, and work well with colleagues and families. A background in Rudolf Steiner pedagogy and/or a willingness to teach and organise programmes in accordance with the special character of the school shall be a condition of employment.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

All copy, including advertisements, to be at the school office in written form no later than Tuesday 9.00 am the week of publication. Classified Advertising 'Buy, Sell or Swap' \$2-00 per week. Private enterprises and businesses: \$5-00 up to 4 lines (one column width); Non-profit organisations may apply for space. No flyers/inserts unless directly related to the school, anthroposophy, or Steiner education. Advertisements are placed at the discretion of the College. Publication does not imply endorsement of the activities advertised. Advertisements that contravene the Special Character of Waldorf Education will not be considered for publication.

HOME AVAILABLE FOR HOUSE SITTING: 23 December for approx 2 weeks in sunny Normandale, LH, 3 BR, 2 lounges, good kitchen, a great place to stay with beautiful bush outlook while visiting relatives, or if you just fancy a getaway. Lots of space, bush, chickens, close to motorway. Phone Victoria 04 589 1160

TWO MALE GUINEA PIGS NEEDING A NEW HOME: (Free), family re-locating but our two lovely Guinea's can't come. Cage and some bedding. Ring Sam 526 3608

NORMANDALE HOME FOR SALE: 2-3 BR, workshop/garage, big organic vegetable garden, fruit trees, chook house, lots of sun. Close to bus. \$150, 00. Ring Daryl 04 576 9596

18 MONTH OLD HEN needs a home. Call Sam 526 3608

WANTED: HOUSE TO RENT OR BUY: 4 BR, 2 Bathrooms in a quiet, sunny accessible location near to Steiner School on Western hills. Prof Couple, Steiner family. Please contact James Herdman/Catherine Gilbert 04 3843 410/027 2123 842 (James) 027 7853 806 (Catherine) jamesherdman@actrix.co.nz

MOFFATS NEED 4 BEDROOM HOUSE, walking distance to school for late Jan or Feb. Garage and fenced section. Telephone 021 824 090

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