



Weekly Newsletter of Raphael House Rudolf Steiner School

3 April 2009

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Friends

Easter and the school holidays are fast approaching us and preparations for our Easter Festival are well underway. The whole School will gather next Thursday morning to celebrate this Festival and School will finish at 12.30pm, the buses will leave 1.00pm sharp.

Dave Haswell, the bus driver for the Lower Hutt, Upper Hutt run, will sadly be leaving Runcimans next week. Dave has been the bus driver for our School for many years and has worked for Runcimans for 13 years. He is highly thought of and respected by many students, parents and teachers of our school. We would like to acknowledge and thank him for his work, commitment and care of our students over the years. There will be a farewell for Dave at the Lower School assembly on Monday 6th April and a group of parents is kindly organizing a morning tea for him.

Jo Llewellyn has been carrying the role of Sports Co-ordinator this term while we looked for someone to take over. Phoebe Lippiett has agreed to take on this role and will be involved from the beginning of Term 2. A huge 'thank you' to Jo for all your hard work, commitment and energy in setting up and organizing many enjoyable events for our students this term. Jo has kindly offered to be in a supporting role for Phoebe over the coming term while she finds her feet.

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

- ◆ If you are a new parent/caregiver to the School this 2009 year, and you have received your Parent Handbook in the post last week, please come to the Lower Office for a folder. New students who started from Te Ra this year (Class 8) please come and collect a folder. This is free to new parents. If existing parents require a new folder, the cost is \$10.00.
- ◆ Re: The update of Student information form sent out last week. Thank you to the 37 families who have returned forms to the Lower Office. Keep them coming in, 100% return is expected.

BOT UPDATE

The Board of Trustees met on Monday 23rd March for its monthly meeting. The primary topic of discussion at the meeting was the School budget for 2009. I regret to advise that the pledged donations from the community (received through the Trust) are insufficient to allow the School to offer the current level of services. Consequently, the Board have approved a budget which will require cuts to the schooling offered to our children. We have deferred the implementation of any changes for 8 weeks to allow for consultation with the Staff and community.

A community meeting to discuss the finances of the School has been scheduled for Wednesday May 13th, the third week back in Term 2.

More information will be provided before the end of Term along with details of the community meeting. The next Board meeting is scheduled for 27th April in the Heidi-Werth room at 7pm.

Glen McCauley, on behalf of the Board of Trustees

THANK YOU

The School was delighted to be offered an array of office furniture by Marc Futter. These spoils of an office move are gratefully received. Thanks, for thinking of us, Marc.

After we have met staff and student needs, we hope to be able to offer some items to the community. We will advertise this in the BT, next term.

Also my special thanks to Martin Orme for his willing help and his sturdy truck, which enabled me to collect the furniture in the tight time frame required.

Alan Chapman, Resource Manager

SCHOOL FUNDRAISING

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

They're back 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, + much more.

ADULT EDUCATION

Please take a close look at the enclosed Adult Education programme for next term and put the dates on your calendar. We have a wonderful variety of speakers and topics to tempt you with. Look forward to seeing you there.

The Adult Education Group

COMMUNITY NOTICES

- ◆ We have found a Key hanging on class 9 door handle. (It could be a person using the Music Room one weekend. Please ring the Lower Office 569 5161

SHEILAH WINN SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

Some of our Class 11 students have been rehearsing a scene from Shakespeare's Othello to perform in the 2009 University of Otago Sheilah Winn Festival of Shakespeare in Schools. They will be performing their scene on Tuesday 7th April at Wellington East Girls' College. The performances start at 7pm and tickets are sold at the door at a cost of \$8.00 (adults) and \$5.00 (students). Please come along and support them!

MALCOLM BAXTER SPECIALIST ADVISOR

TO RAPHAEL HOUSE STEINER SCHOOL

Parents will be becoming aware that I have been contracted by the Board of Trustees to assist the School as a Specialist Advisor. This has come about from the Board of Trustees requesting help and advice from the Ministry of Education.

I work independently. My background has been in education, as a teacher and a Principal of a number of schools. I have also worked for the Ministry of Education.

In 2006 I retired, and since then have worked in a number of schools offering contract services to help them become robust education facilities providing quality education in a well-functioning environment.

My contract currently sets out the following outcomes I will work to achieve. They are:

1. To clarify roles and responsibilities of the Board of Trustees, the Board of Proprietors, and the College of Teachers. Outcomes of this will be reported to the parents.
2. To institute school-wide self-review practices that will inform the strategic priorities so that funding needs can be aligned.
3. To build greater robustness in Board processes, policies and procedures, employment and personnel matters to ensure transparency, and involve community consultation and communication.
4. To investigate parental concerns and issues, and where found to have validity, to ensure they are addressed.
5. To review and improve Board operations so that self-review and reporting on Board and school operations are more readily communicated to parents and relationships between the different groups within the school is strengthened.
6. To address any further identified actions as agreed with the BOT.

I welcome contact from parents and am happy to meet with you. Please feel free to contact me directly. My contact details are: Phone 479 9252, Cell 027 4626 252 email: malcolm.baxter@xtra.co.nz

A LEAF FROM ROS MCSWEENEY



We are leaving Raphael House in these holidays for the rest of the year, and I was thinking what my three children have gained from their time in school. Well, they've learned through beauty, love, poetry, song, rhythm and colour and have gained from that a passion for learning.

There have been many exciting and demanding camps which have left them exceedingly confident in their physical and social abilities.

Our community has left an imprint on their souls of how nurturing close friendships can be.

When my older children transferred out of our School it was a bit bumpy at first. Quite quickly they created for themselves a safe, happy and very supportive environment where they have been keen to excel in their chosen interests, using their learning's from Raphael House. So all in all I feel that their early schooling has been excellent, healthy and holistic, and helped them create a confidence in themselves and their abilities.

GREEN LIVING, 115 JACKSON ST IN PETONE

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, 50ml and 600ml, perfect size for school and 800ml adult size too. Craft activities every Sunday suitable 3-6 year olds, 1-3pm (\$4 per child) starts 15 March (next to the Palace Caf  t 115 Jackson St).

THE SWISH DISH HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

295 Jackson Street Petone 04 939 1979

Our Holiday programme will run: 1st Week 2nd Week

Easter Monday

Mon 20 April

Tue 14 April

Tue 21 April

Wed 15 April

Wed 22 April

Thur 16 April

Thur 23 April

Fri 17 April

Fri 24 April

We will offer discounted items for the morning sessions which are between 9.30am and mid-day. Bookings are essential and parents need to accompany children under 7 yrs. The only cost to your child is what they choose to paint as tuition; painting, glazing and firing are included in the purchase price.

We have a new email address.
Let us know what you think
theswishdish@gmail.com

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.

HORSE FOR SALE Selling my beautiful 5 year old TB mare. Paris is a lovely 15.4hh horse with a lot of potential; needs experienced rider. I am also selling all my horse gear, new saddle, halter, brushes and more. If interested please ~~call 04 939 1979~~
~~or email theswishdish@gmail.com~~

REPORT OF THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION STEERING GROUP

To The Raphael House School Community concerning the results of the recent Questionnaire sent out to ascertain the possibility of establishing a Parents' Association.

30 March 2009

Dear Raphael House School Community

Thank you for responding to the recent questionnaire sent out by the Parents' Association Steering Group. Our intention was to reach as many of the School community as possible. Despite our attempt to be inclusive, it is possible we did not manage to contact everyone with an connection to the school. Nevertheless, the results have given a clear picture of the wishes of the community.

102 completed forms were returned. 2 late arrivals are not included in data. Three quarters were received as hard copy and one quarter were received via e-mail. While we do not know exactly how many households or families are represented by the responses, we are reasonably confident that they represent about half of the active School community.

A significant number of detailed comments were received on the response forms, not all of which were directly related to the work of the Steering Group. All comments have been anonymously recorded, however and are being safely held until such time as a Parents' Association is formed, when they will be passed on. There are many excellent ideas and suggestions within these comments. The indications are that there is a wealth of parental energy, ideas and opportunities that can be mobilised in the interests of the School and the education that we all value so highly.

Of these 100 respondents:

Are you a parent?

87 - Yes, 22 - Upper School, 24 - Lower School, 10 - Kindy, 31 - more than one of the above.

Do you support the school on other grounds?

6 - Yes

Do you think there should be a parent's association?

88 - Yes

5 - No

7 - No response to the question

Are you a member of the school's staff?

14 - Yes

Should the PA be formal or informal?

69 - Would like to see the Parent's Association formally constituted

21 - Think the Parent's Association should be informally convened

10 - No response

Would you take part in the association?

46 - Yes

46 - No

8 - Not sure or no response

What should the main focus or role of the Association be?

56 - Social activities

44 - Educational activities

78 - Advocacy and support

57 - Fundraising

16 - Other: Interesting comments for future reference

30 - Wanted all 1, 2, 3 & 4

Specifically, which of the following activities would you like to see the Association engage in?

67 - Social and cultural events

63 - The Toy, Food & Craft Fair

54 - Discussions on Waldorf education

48 - Adult education activities

62 - Support for class teachers

71 - Parent representation

69 - Support for parents in raising and solving issues with the school

17 - Other: Interesting comments for future reference

32 - Wanted all 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

Further Analysis

Of the 14 school staff who filled in the form,

14 - Want the parents association

10 - Think it should be formally constituted

2 - Think it should be informally convened

7 - Are also parents

3 - Are parents who want to join the association?

Of the 100 respondents who filled in the form

33 - Think there should be an association and it should be formally constituted and they would participate in it.

28 - Think there should be an association and it should be formally constituted but they would not participate in it.

10 - Think there should be an association and it should be informally convened and they would participate in it.

8 - Think there should be an association and it should be informally convened but they would not participate in it.

5 - Do not think there should be a Parents' Association.

The remainder did not answer the combination of these three questions.

CONCLUSIONS A Parents' Association is clearly wished for in the form of a formally constituted association with an elected committee. There is an indication of good participation and high interest. There are also some clear indications of the matters people would like the Association to focus on.

Around 75% of respondents would like to see some sort of combination of parents, teachers, friends and past parents involved but no management and no parents elected to other bodies in the school being eligible for election to the Parents' Association Committee, though they would all be welcome to join the association. This point is an overall picture of the comments received relating to who should be able to join the Parents' Association and is not precise.

It seems clear that a constitution and clear rules of procedure will be required to enable the work of the Association to proceed smoothly.

In light of the above, our conclusion is that a formally-constituted Parents, Teachers and Friends Association should be formed.

The Steering Group will now draft a constitution and rules of procedure, drawing on other relevant models. The draft constitution and rules of procedure will be sent out to parents for consideration. The Steering Group will be meeting at 7.30 p.m. on 28 April 2009 in the rooms of the Anthroposophical Society to finalize the proposed constitution and rules. Anyone wishing to contribute is welcome to attend on this date.

The full results of the survey document will be available in the Steering Group Folder in the Parent's Library.

Regards the Steering Group

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)

RAPHAEL HOUSE SCHOOL : TERM 2 ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMME 2009

<p>Eurythmy</p> <p>Presenter: Uta Stoll-Kuwilsky</p> <p>Dates: Thursday 30th April - Thursday 11th June</p> <p>7.30 pm</p> <p>Venue: Eurythmy Room</p> <p>This is a weekly session with a small group of enthusiasts who gladly welcome newcomers with some experience or a real passion to work with eurythmy.</p> <p>Phone: Darien 977 0909 to enrol</p> <p>Cost: To be advised</p>	<p>Parenting in the Kindergarten and Early Primary Years</p> <p>Roots & Wings - A Three-Part Lecture Series</p> <p>Speaker: Mary Willow</p> <p>Lecture 1: The Journey of Early Childhood Date: Saturday 9th May</p> <p>Lecture 2: Positive Parenting Date: Saturday 16th May</p> <p>Lecture 3: Loving, Nurturing Boundaries Date: Saturday 23rd May</p> <p>Venue: For all lectures: Eurythmy Room</p> <p>1.00 pm to 4.00 pm</p> <p>This is free Parent Curriculum lecture and strongly recommended!</p> <p><u>Note:</u> All parents must attend lecture 1 before they can come to lectures 2 and 3.</p>	<p>Audio-Media Effects and Influences</p> <p>Presenter: Hartmut Kuwilsky</p> <p>Date: Tuesday 26th May</p> <p>7.30 pm</p> <p>Venue: Eurythmy Room</p> <p>This presentation will start with a brief over-view of the wider range of Multi-Media effects i.e. TV/Video, Audio, Computer Games and Cellphones, with a focus on the influence of Audio Media on the human being. The ear as a sense organ is integrated deeper into our organism than the eye and as a result what comes through our sense of hearing influences us on a deep and subtle level.</p> <p>This evening will increase our comprehension of the audio influences which penetrate our daily lives in a rapidly expanding degree.</p> <p>Cost: \$5.00</p>
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RAPHAEL HOUSE SCHOOL : TERM 2 ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMME 2009

<p>Why Do We Celebrate Festivals at Raphael House?</p> <p>Presenters: Ray Shore, Ashley Gibbs, Irene Kriek, Phillip Robinson, Bendon Henchan & Melanie Treadgold</p> <p>Date: Tuesday 9th June 7.30 pm</p> <p>Venue: Eurythmy Room</p> <p>How do the seasonal rhythms of the year affect our soul life? How can we relate to the great Christian festivals of Christmas, Easter and Pentecost in the cycle of our own life experiences? Come and enjoy an artistic evening of music, movement, games and conversation with the 'Festival Group' as we explore the cycle of the year through the festivals.</p> <p>This is a <u>free</u> Parent Curriculum presentation and strongly recommended!</p>	<p>Learning to Give Therapeutic Footbaths</p> <p>Presenters: Rachel Clarke and Marcia Pollock</p> <p>Date: Monday 15th June 7.30pm</p> <p>Venue: Eurythmy Room</p> <p>Come along and learn more about the gesture behind giving a therapeutic footbath. Experience giving and receiving a footbath in order to gain the skills needed to offer footbaths to members of your family.</p> <p>Phone: Sabine 565 1480 to enrol</p> <p>Cost: \$5.00</p>	<p>Nursing Your Child at Home</p> <p>Presenters: Rachel Clarke and Sarah Therklsson</p> <p>Date: Tuesday 23rd June 7.30pm</p> <p>Venue: Eurythmy Room</p> <p>Nursing your child at home - an evening to share and learn about anthroposophical first aid and simple home remedies.</p> <p>Phone: Sabine 565 1480 to enrol</p> <p>Cost: \$5.00</p>	<p>Roots, Leaves, Flowers and Seeds... Nourishment for Temperaments and Learning Needs</p> <p>Presenter: Debbie ter Borg</p> <p>Date: Saturday 27th June 10am till 1.00pm</p> <p>Venue: Eurythmy Room Kitchen</p> <p>Come along to this cooking workshop and share a meal</p> <p>Phone: Sabine 565 1480 to enrol (min 6 and max 12 people)</p> <p>Cost: \$ 15 plus sharing cost for ingredients</p>
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