



Weekly Newsletter of Raphael House Rudolf Steiner School

6 March 2009

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Friends,

Welcome to week 5 of the term. Our hard working festival group have been busily preparing for our forth coming Michaelmas Festival, which will be celebrated with the children and students on 19 March. The teachers and staff in their Pedagogical meeting are also preparing for the Festival with classes over the coming week.

This term we will celebrate both Michaelmas/Autumn and will very soon be preparing for our Easter Festival on Thursday 9th April. Parents Reps are welcome to attend the Easter Festivals, let us know if you want to come due to the very tight space for the whole school in the Eurythmy Room.

A reminder to you all, please take the time to complete and return the questionnaire you will have received last week from the Steering Group. They are a committed group of people who share a desire to engage the School Community about the possibility of establishing a formal parent body. This is an important opportunity for the whole school community to give feedback and the College of Teachers strongly encourages you to take this opportunity and to support this positive initiative.

We have had very positive feedback and comments from students, teachers and parents about the camps for classes 8, 10, 11 and 12. Thank you to all the many parents who attended the different camps and to the teachers for making it possible.

There are still however quite a number of outstanding camp payments. Please pay for your child's camps, and let the office know if you need to make an arrangement for the payment

The Parent Handbook is currently with the printers and will be distributed by post on its return.

Wishing you an enjoyable Weekend,

Karen Brice-Geard

School Co-ordinator

on behalf of the College of Teachers: Ray Shore, David Stephenson, Norbert Mulholland, Adam Ricketts, Annette Terlau and Margaret Sweaney.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2009

DATE	EVENT	TIME	VENUE
9 March	Class 9 Tongariro National Park Camp		
TBA	Class 5 Photos		
TBA	Kindergarten Photos		
23 March	BOT Meeting	7.00	Heidi Werth Room The agenda for the meeting will be available from Thursday 19 th March
27 March	Te Reo Maori Group Meeting TBC		Eurythmy Room

FROM THE OFFICE

We are still taking School Photo orders and monies at the Lower School Office.

ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS TO THE PARENT HAND BOOK

The Bush Telegraph will no longer advertise people's change of address and telephone numbers; these will be sent to the classes concerned via the Class Rep.

EXTRA CURRICULAR SPORT

JUNIOR TOUCH

Thursday 12 th March	RH U16 Boys Vs HIBS Hurricanes	5.15pm
Thursday 19 th March	RH U16 Boys Vs St Bernard Gold	5.15pm

2008 TOY CRAFT AND FOOD FESTIVAL STALL TAKINGS

The Committee have now been able to present the financial information for 2008 Festival. Congratulations and thanks to all those who worked so tirelessly to make this another successful event.

Takings banked (ie, Gross income): Outdoor activities \$285.10; Indoor Activities \$315.40; Candle room \$907.20; Barbeque \$1,820.40; Café Class 5 \$1,722.10; Little People's Place \$358.90; Cookie Garden \$759.50; Parent Craft Room \$5,769.40; Christmas Craft Room \$1,219.40; Cake Stall \$278.00; Coffee \$1,530.10; Storytelling \$119.20; Ice cream \$1,386.40; Juices \$615.50; Class 9 Café \$1,950.30; Plants \$181.10; Raffle \$17.00; Pocket Lady \$307.90; Fruit kebabs \$381.50; Commission sales \$1,743.10. The surplus (ie, takings less costs) for 2008 is \$11,258.08.

PEG has agreed that this funding will be used to develop playground space below Classes 1-4 and below the Eurythmy Room. Ground clearing has already started for this project. Alan Chapman, Chair, PEG

QUIZ NIGHT

CONNECT CONFERENCE FUNDRAISER

Get together your team of 6 people for another spectacular Raphaël House

QUIZ NIGHT Friday 20th March, 7.00~9.00pm

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,

Eurythmy Room, Contact Fiona for tickets and more information

[REDACTED] (The Connect Crew 2009)

CORNER OF THOUGHT

THE POTENTIAL OF THE HAND

The brain discovers what the fingers explore.

The density of nerve endings in our finger tips is enormous. Their discrimination is almost as good as that of our eyes. If we don't use our fingers, if in childhood and youth we become 'finger-blind', this rich network of nerves is impoverished which represents a huge loss to the brain and thwarts the individual's all-round development? Such damage may be likened to blindness itself. Perhaps worse, while a blind person may simply not be able to find this or that object, the 'finger-blind' cannot understand its inner meaning and value.

If we neglect to develop and train our children's fingers and the creative form building capacity of their hand muscles, then we neglect to develop their understanding of things; we thwart their aesthetic and creative powers.

Those who shaped our age old traditions always understood this. But today Western civilization, an information obsessed society that overvalues science and undervalues true worth, has forgotten it all. We are 'value-damaged'.

The philosophy of our upbringing is science-centred and our schools are programmed toward that end. These schools have no time for the creative potential of the nimble fingers and hand and that arrests the all-round development of our children and the whole community.

Matt Bergstrom, professor and neurophysiologist
Star Weavings Newsletter Spring/Summer 2008, no. 40

PARENTS STEERING GROUP

Extra copies of the questionnaire are available in the Lower Office and there is a box in which completed ones can be placed. If you would like another copy emailed to you please contact us at rh.parent.steering.group@gmail.com

Thank you so much for returning the ones we've already received. The next meeting is on Friday 13 December, 7.30 p.m. in the Anthroposophical Society Meeting Rooms. Open meeting.

ADULT EDUCATION

Welcome back to another year of interesting and informative workshops and lectures. We are already in the process of putting together a programme for term 2 and look forward to seeing a lot of members of the parent community there. We have 3 new members this year whom we warmly welcome to the group. Rachel Clarke, Jennifer Cushman and Magrita Freie who is overseeing the Parent Library.

Keep your eyes open for the 'Corner of Thought' this will be monthly article, and consists of articles, reviews, thoughts of interest and reflection on many topics related to the Special Character of Raphael House and Anthroposophy.

With good wishes for a productive year ahead

Julia Sherriff, Lut Hermans, Laura Hurtado, Hetty Vink, Konny Reichert, Sabine Sharpe, Rachel Clarke, Jennifer Cushman and Magrita Freie

A LEAF FROM DEBI LLOYD

Some things you just know in your heart are true and right. Without research and



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)***

without knowledge and without asking why. But simply trusting with intuition, feeling and heart. The greatest decisions can be made and answers found. I feel this way about Raphael House. With little knowledge of Rudolf Steiner, I just knew it was where my children would be inspired. Where body, mind and spirit are a learned language in harmony with each other inseparable. A place where the SOUL can breathe. Creativity and imagination and dance play for a soaring leap of one's own thought and limitless possibilities. Where marks and grades pale for importance. Yes... my children and your children will be THINKERS OF THE WORLD finding solutions to any given challenge. And so it is.

Moments to cherish. When ~~Topsy~~ was in Class 1, I attended her first play simply titled "The Seed". It was written and directed by her teacher Deirdre

Reid. The play was performed with such presence from every child.

It was so simple and yet so moving. Four groups of children were playing different roles nurturing and growing the seeds. These were the four elements; wind, water, the gnomes preparing the earth and the sun (fire). ~~Topsy~~ was a gnome! And how she did dig that earth! I cried! The message was so pure and profound and beautiful. Thank you Deirdre.

When ~~G~~ was in Class 3, I remember a day of her class camp in Moore's Valley, Wainuiomata. And in awe I walked through the bush for 20 minutes in total silence with an entire class of 8 and 9 year olds! For 20 minutes... there was

no talking, not a sound as the class listened to the sounds of the bush. There were neither carrots nor sticks either. They were simply being present with their environment and they enjoyed it. Even I had to restrain myself not to chatter! This class has incredible concentration skills and an amazing sense of rhythm. Well done Pairoj.

Ahoi... And what a joy!

A teenage boy who can knit and crochet and play the guitar and loves reading books! [REDACTED]

Where else can you find a group of knitted maths gnomes?
How else can you count but with a bag of 'rose quartz crystal' counting stones?
What better way to learn imagination than through 'Ray' the Story Teller?
And the dying art of 'HANDWRITING' is still alive and full of expression!
Birthday celebrations with cakes and verses. Fantastic!

And celebrate the Winter Festival with intricately designed lanterns shining and spiralling brightly. And the drumming and the full moon and the fire.
Oh what a night that was. What vision and enthusiasm those pioneers of Raphael House had in mind! What determination and drive! I congratulate the school and all that it has been achieved over the years. Thank You.

The energy and thought which surrounds a school is as pertinent as the people attending.

So lift up your veils
Let the emerald green flag fly within your heart.
Shine the colour of healing.
Archangel Raphael

WHAT'S ON

STORY TELLING / INTERPLAY

All are warmly welcome to come to a story telling afternoon this Sunday between 2 and 5pm at the Korokoro school hall. I am teaming up with a professional storyteller from Colorado. A Koha for the room hire will be appreciated and maybe bring a plate to share for afternoon tea. "Interplay is easy, fun, and life changing. It is based in a series of incremental "forms" that lead participants to movement and stories, silence and song, ease and amusement. In the process, we unlock the wisdom of our bodies and the wisdom in our communities."

Arohanui. [REDACTED]

TRANSITION TOWNS

There is an all day seminar at Te Papa (Oceania Room) this Saturday 7th March from 8am-5pm entitled Resilient Pathways organised by the GWRC www.resilientpathways.org.nz. Transition towns is a world-wide movement started in England focusing on building resilient communities in the face of Peak Oil and other serious issue facing our times. Lunch provided entry by Koha. [REDACTED]
Christine Dells, telephone 475 9043 / 021 150 9536