



Term 3, Issue 26
4 September, 2009

Dear Parents/Caregivers and Friends

Welcome back to Class 7 and Jarod who had a fantastic week away skiing. A big thank you to the parents who went along to assist and support.

The Class 12 projects are just around the corner, so do remember to come along on Saturday 19 September to the presentations. On Friday afternoon the students work will be on display in the foyer of the Little Theatre, Lower Hutt. Throughout the School the teachers strive to establish a good rhythm in the School day. It is important that classes begin on time, and that there are no disruptions once lessons have started. Please ensure that your child arrives at School on time so that he or she can walk up to the classroom, put away their school bag, catch up with friends, and prepare for the School day. How they enter the classroom in the morning often sets the mood of the day.

NOTIFICATION OF ABSENCES. When a student is absent for the day, the School must be notified by a parent/caregiver. It is very helpful when parents phone early (preferably before 8.30 am) and leave a message on the 24 hour answer phone. Press "1" for this option. Another option to notify the School is by using Core talk: 021 516 497. Please use the Core talk number to leave a TEXT message that your child will absent/late from School/Kindergarten.

It is lovely to see the greening of the trees, the white and pink blossom and the daffodils, as we are in the change of season from the last day of winter to the first days of spring.

Wishing you an enjoyable and restful weekend.

Karen Brice-Geard

School Coordinator on behalf of the College of Teachers: Ray Shore, David

Tena koutou

In our search for meaning, knowledge and support Te Ropu TKM recalled a deep piece of work undertaken by a Rudolph Steiner student, Bridie McLaughlin. She was a prior student of Raphael House and had gone on to Victoria University to study. She undertook a thesis in 2007, entitled "More than Head, Heart and Hand: Rethinking Maori empowerment within Steiner Education".

The article explores the connections and relevance of Rudolph Steiner to Maori. There is a richness and insight in the work that highlights connections at the many levels, spiritual, head, heart and physical. On page 111 she comments: "Steiner developed a method of education that he intended to evolve and adapt with different culture and geographies. One of the aims of this thesis was to find out how this has been achieved to provide an identity relevant, specific and unique to Aotearoa/New Zealand. I argued that Steiner schools could be beneficial for Maori children, but only if they evolve out of their Eurocentric beginnings and recreate themselves as schools for their Pacific setting, and taking on an adequate Maori studies programmes. The finding of this thesis is that there is much work to be done if Aotearoa/NZ Steiner Schools are to be practically empowering and academically beneficial for Maori students."

On page 113 she continues: "This thesis concludes that while Steiner Schools may be philosophically compatible in some respects to Maori, this is perhaps not always enough. There is a need to be practically beneficial to Maori if they are to be empowered by the education that the Waldorf method offers. There needs to be a strong Maori studies programme within each school (not just the select few as it is now) if the Waldorf method of education as a whole nationally is to be beneficial. Above all, the Steiner schooling system needs to have clear systems in place to deal with racism should it arise within Steiner Schools, as explored in chapter two and provide quality education to all students."

This is a snippet of the thinking explored in the thesis. We believe this opens a door for further thinking and connection to what it might mean for Raphael House.

We endeavour to make the entire thesis available to you.

Greetings to all, po marie

Helen Emmerson

On behalf of Te Ropu Tautoko i Te Kaupapa Maori

GREETINGS FROM THE PARENT TEACHER FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of committee meetings and other information will be available in a folder in the Parent Library, located in Lower School Office. We would like to inform you that we are starting off with a deficit due to establishment costs. The committee has agreed to repay, in stages, the debt which the Steering Group incurred in setting up the PTFA and that part of donations may be used for this purpose.

PTFA members may make donations by contacting any of the members listed below. If you wish to contact the PTFA, please contact one of the committee directly or email: (HYPERLINK "mailto:ptfacommittee@gmail.com") ptfacommittee@gmail.com. Catharina, Denny, and Marie are often around School. Please feel free to approach them at any time.

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	Julian Thomson	565 3644
Sucinno Vermeltfoort	562 7977		

Hoping you all have a enjoyable and relaxing weekend

RAPHAEL HOUSE, RUDOLF STEINER SCHOOL, WELLINGTON 1979-2009

Raphael House Rudolf Steiner School.

What a strong name for a venture, an impulse living strongly within the minds and hearts of a small number of teachers in the 1970s. They: Paul Denford, Trudi Schladitz and Gerald Richardson, with a group of other dedicated Anthroposophists had the vision, and the will, to start a Waldorf School in Wellington. But the impulse was even more than that, as from the outset the 'salutogenic' healing forces, inherent in the rhythm of heart and lungs, were to be central. It was to be a school dedicated in this age to both Michael and Raphael, a school of education and healing. And that is precisely what happened.

From the humble beginnings of Trudi's Kindergarten in High Street, Lower Hutt grew the school, a school in which children with special needs were able to receive the care they needed in order to bring their gifts to their fellows and teachers. The integrity of each child in body, soul and spirit, was fostered by the Anthroposophical basis of the Waldorf curriculum that was living within each of the teachers. In this view the role of a school doctor was to be an integral part of the mutual interaction of teaching and healing. I was privileged to fulfil this role for about twenty years from the early beginnings. This work entailed listening to the life-story of a particular child and observing him or her, and afterwards contributing to the 'child-study' as part of the Thursday teachers' meeting. I was always touched by that dedicated time of child-study, when all our combined strength, love and dedication were devoted to the spirit, soul and body of a particular child, as the centre of this healing educational impulse.

Standing together in a circle, pledging ourselves to assist the guardian angel of that individual child in need of help, while speaking the verse that Rudolf Steiner gave for that purpose, was one of the most solemn moments of expressing vows that I have ever encountered. That moment encapsulates for me the whole essence of this unique school and Waldorf curriculum in its clearly stated spiritual and physical mission.

How about the external, 'material' part of the school? To build a school upon these high spiritual and moral values is in itself a great challenge. To do it on a steep hillside in a fairly isolated suburb in the Wellington region with no public transport or services would require an enormous effort. And yet, this school came into being through just that combination of vision, dedication and pure hard work. The parents and teachers "just did it" (long before the Nike slogan). The mortar, bricks and money always follow the fire of enthusiasm. And gradually, steadily but strongly, literally via the paving of the zig-zag path the school 'climbed' up the hill, from the Kindergarten, then the Lower School and later the Upper School from prefabs to permanent buildings. The greater Wellington community knew about the School. Its presence was advocated via Toy Fair, articles in the local press, markets and exhibitions. It was the time of youth, of fully integrated vision, love and action.

But things did change. In our changed world of modern ever increasing speed of communication there is at the same time a loss of direct face-to-face communication, and also in the world of education independence comes at an ever higher price. Dealing with these issues became a national challenge for all Steiner Schools and especially for Raphael House, where healing and education were so fully integrated. The paradoxical time of 'integration' within the state education system had arrived, and with it the inherently different emphases and standards, bringing enormous challenges to implementing a full Waldorf curriculum, both spiritually and materially. Raphael House was just 14 years old then. These challenges, by the way, are not unique to education but are faced by Anthroposophical medicine, bio-dynamic agriculture and other Anthroposophical endeavours as well. It requires "new ways" of relating, new ways of re-enlivening structures and great flexibility to deal with the state imposition of "external" structures.

Raphael House has gone through very difficult and tumultuous times recently, grappling with these issues. We are not yet through with that process. Yet there is a re-kindling of the fire of enthusiasm with a clarity, dedication and will to embrace the future, to contribute to the work of Michael and Raphael for the present and future task of integrating healing and education.

As a new Trustee of Raphael House I see its enormous potential. I believe that the salutogenic impulse of education is now more necessary than ever in our world today. Shouldering that task together in adapted new ways while holding true to the Anthroposophical basis, which inspired these original teachers, will be the challenge.

René de Monchy

ADULT EDUCATION

How can we better understand? what happens when the child goes through the changes around nine years old? What follows this change and how does the child then make the transition into adolescence? What are these changes on a physical, organic level, which influence the behaviour and learning of our children?

Michael Sargent - Thursday 10 September 7.30pm

Eurythmy Room, Free entry

Michael Sargent is an Anthroposophical doctor, living in Christchurch. This year he has been the School doctor for Raphael House and Te Ra. He brings with him a deep understanding of child development, how we can better understand our children, and better guide them through life's challenges.

This talk is followed the week after, on Thursday 17 September, by Mary Willow, who will give us parenting tips for this period of our child's development. The changes the child goes through also mean we have to adjust our parenting to meet the child's different needs. We highly recommend you try to come to both talks so that the parenting tips can be built on the understanding of the changing, developing child.

CALENDER OF EVENTS SEPTEMBER 2009

Sun (week 7)	Mon	Tue 01	Wed 02	Thu 03	Fri 04	Sat 05
				Class 10 Sports Exch	Cl 3 Play	GARAGE SALE 9-12 noon
06 (Week 8)	07 Cl 9 Farm Exp all week Cl 10 Community Service	08	09	10 ADULT EDUCATION (Challenges of the Transition Childhood to Adolescence) 7.30, Eurythmy Room	11 RHRSS Open Afternoon 1.30pm Eurythmy Room	12
13 (Week 9)	14 Cl 9 Farm Exp all week Cl 10 Community Service	15	16	17 ADULT EDUCATION (Parenting skills - Mary Willow) 7.30pm Eurythmy Room	18 Cl 12 Project Exhibition Kite Day, Beach Clean Up. 12-2pm Petone	19 Cl 12 Project Presentations Little Theatre
20 (Week 10)	21 School Cross Country	22	23 Cl 10 Community Service Presentations	24 Raphael Festival Cl 9 Farming Ex Presentations BOT Meeting 7pm	25 End of School Term 2.55pm	26

TRUST FUNDRAISING NEWS

GARAGE SALE - Saturday 5 September 9am-12pm The Garage Sale is on tomorrow morning (Sat) from 9 -12 noon at the Bus Garage in front of the School. Come along and browse the bargains on sale, have a coffee.. Lemonade stalls, too.

Raphael House Concert Series: A series of concerts featuring music and singing from talented musicians and singers within our School Community, is being organised. The first concert is to be on Saturday night 19 September. Keep this night free for a wonderful evening. Details to follow next week. Help also required: do you have experience in organising events like this? We could do with another person or two to help with organising these concerts. Contact Amanda O'Connor 589 2004 if you can help. Chris Penman, on behalf of the Fundraising Group, ph 566 4977, fundraising @ raphaelhouse.school.nz

FROM THE OFFICE

Reminder. We have moved towards sending the newsletter entirely by email to reduce the amount of paper we use. If you don't have an email address and need a hard copy, please return the slip to the Lower Office, which was sent home last week. Spare copies available at the office.

Thank you class 6 Students (Jacob, Jai, Cora, Lani, Rosie) who helped last week in the Lower Office on Reception, You were fantastic,

END OF SCHOOL DAY MESSAGES: Please remind your children if their name is up on the Window of the Lower Office, that they are to come in and collect messages.

SPORTS - WEEK 7

Congratulations to the Upper School Football team who won their grade. Well done boys! A huge huge thank you to Udo Froetschl, the teams coach, and Stephanie Hansby, their manager, for all the awesome work you did with the team!

We would also love to hear from any parents, coaches, friends or family who know about any sporting (or other!) achievements among our students, as we would love to acknowledge these in the Bush Telegraph. Please email Fiona: fiona.d @ raphaelhouse.school.nz, or talk to her in person at the Lower Office.

LOWER SCHOOL BASKETBALL - WEDNESDAY 9 SEPTEMBER - BYE

COMMUNITY NOTICES

**EXTRA LESSON
NEW COURSE STARTING IN NEW ZEALAND
TAURANGA, 21-26 JANUARY 2010**

The training is at a post graduate level. Do you work with children and adolescents with learning and behavioural difficulties? This training course could provide you with the skills and understanding to work from a holistic developmental perspective to assist the children with learning difficulties, behavioural disorders, Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, ADD and ADHD. It is a 3 year part time course with 2 workshops per year in Tauranga.

Rosemary Murphy @ rosemarydm @xnet.co.nz/07 543 3997/ 021 1437 015

Lindy Peters lindy.p @raphaelhouse.school.nz home 04 904 0570.

Closing date for applications, mid October 2009.

MOTUEKA RUDOLF STEINER SCHOOL INITIATIVE

We are seeking a class teacher for a small class 1 group in 2010. This group would become a composite class (1 & 2) from 2011. Teacher's registration is required. Music skills & a knowledge of Te Reo Maori would be an advantage. The successful applicant would need to be willing to work in a pioneering situation with a strong and dedicated group of teachers. A knowledge of Waldorf education or willingness to train. We also need a relieving Kindergarten Teacher for the first 6 months of 2010. If interested contact Avril Nicoll. H: 03 528 4977, Sch: 03 5280 246 Email:MRSS-admin@xtra.co.nz

PARENT LIBRARY

We are now open on Monday afternoon. Our opening times are:

Monday 2.30pm - 3.00pm

Tuesday 9am - 10am

Wednesday 8.45am - 9.30am

Friday 2.30 pm - 3.15 pm

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY WELLINGTON 4-6 SEPTEMBER

Priest: Kevin Coffey (09) 816 9273; 021 0241 6614. Children's session Frid 4 Sept @ 3:15pm (at Leonie's Kindergarten). NOTE: No service on Sat morning this time. Saturday evening public talk: The Christian Path of Non-attachment, "The essential way of our times" at 13 Leary St 7:30pm (after the shared meal). www.thechristiancommunity.net

CLASS 12 PROJECTS

Finding My Hue

For my Class 12 project, I not only explored my relationship with creativity and art, but the relationship with my father and our two styles of art work. My project is to organise and exhibits my own artwork and showcases some of my father's pieces. My exhibition will be held on 10, 11 and 12 September, (Thursday and Friday afternoon, and Saturday all day), 151 High Street, (Above Cash Converters). I really hope that you will come along to my exploration. Dali Lu

From Jayden (Class 12)

I have been running from Taupo to Wellington to raise money for The Child Cancer Foundation for my class 12 project (365ks). As I write this I am nearly half way. I feel more tired than usual, bed is at 9.30pm! Although my feet are a bit tender I am otherwise feeling really good, with no real aches and pains! I will be arriving in Wellington on Sunday 6 September around 4pm. For anyone wishing to do the last day with me (22k's) or the last few k's, please ring my home on Friday or Saturday for the details as to where to meet me and when. Thanks to all those who have sponsored me, and to all those who are going to, there's no time like the present. Donations can be made online at <http://www.fundraiseonline.co.nz/thelongmile/>

WHAT'S ON

FINISHES THIS WEEKEND LAST DAY SUNDAY 6 SEPTEMBER

If you haven't managed to get there yet, this is your last opportunity! Thanks to those who have missioned out there! **ORIENTATE** reimagining customary forms showing contemporary jewellery and artwork by:

SPRING REES

Kerry Ann Lee

Sarak Vone Sum

Free at PATAKA Museum's Blue Pacific Gallery (next to super cheap auto and Harvery Norman in Porirua), call or email for extra information or to be put on my mailing list for future shows/events. Spring 027 2160 100 spring.rees@gmail.com

THE LIVING MATRIX movie. Free screening tonight @ 7.30pm.

Phone Heather 565 3692 to reserve a seat. Featuring Dr Eric Pearl, Dr Bruce Lipton, Lynne McTaggart and Dr Rupert Sheldrake. **The Living Matrix**. The new science of healing, discover the intricate web of factors that determine our well being. From the quantum physics of the human body field to heart coherence and informational health care, explore innovative ideas about health. Scientists, psychologists, bio energetic researches and holistic practitioners share their knowledge, experience and insights.

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.

Put a spring in your step. Drop into a 5Rhythms dance class, Mondays, 7-9pm at Secret Level, 229A High Street, LH. Gabrielle Roth's 5Rhythms is a deeply transformative practice of movement meditation. Come along and dance your own dance with supportive instruction from Julie Forsey. Special introductory offer to BT readers (your first class free! normally \$15.00) www.5rhythms.co.nz telephone 565 3304.

VEGE SAMOSA FUNDRAISER Four for \$10.00 Large. Tessa Hunt, Class 9, is fundraising for her team's participation in the Gisborne tournament in October. Orders in by 6 September, delivery on the 22 September. Prepayment is required. Email horoscopes@paradise.net.nz for details.

Raphael House Rudolf Steiner School
27 Matuhi Street, Tirohanga, Lower Hutt 5010
Telephone: 64 4 569 5161 Fax 64 4 569 4860
E-mail fiona.d@raphaelhouse.school.nz

THE PERFECT RECIPE

Take one ounce of wisdom,
Blend with two tablespoons of openness,
A cup of willingness
And a plateful of kindness.

Stir well, and watch it grow

You will have made the perfect recipe for creating a bountiful
future for all life on this planet.

Protect the Earth
Protect our children's future

Know the facts about your diet

Our Diet
Leading to a Sustainable Future
Or Killing Our Planet?
Dr Aryan Tavakkoli MBBS FRACP

"It's not just about eating locally grown organic produce"

Wednesday 16th September, 7pm
Eurythmy Room
FREE LECTURE

All parents, teachers and upper school students invited