



RAPHAEL HOUSE
RUDOLF STEINER SCHOOL
BUSHTELEGRAPH

Term 1, Issue 6
12 March, 2010

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Friends,

The term is flying by with only three weeks and then the Easter holidays! Preparations are well underway to celebrate the Michaelmas Festival on Friday 19 March. We will then begin to prepare for the Easter Festival which will be celebrated on Thursday, 1 April. Class Representatives are invited to join our Easter Festival, please, however do confirm your attendance as spaces are limited. Class Reps to advise Wendy of attendance.

Email Application Problems: The School is currently experiencing some major issues with our email applications. We apologise for this and any inconvenience it may cause you. We do have people working to resolve the problems. Erica, our Sports Coordinator, has been had much of her work disrupted by the email difficulties. We do sincerely apologise for this inconvenience to our School community.

COMMUNITY MEETING: The School will hold a Community Meeting on Wednesday 24 March in the Eurythmy room at 7.30pm. We would like to warmly invite you to attend this important meeting which will form part of the continued community meetings agreed to last year. Our focus will be on curriculum and updates on work taking place in the School this year. Further information will be sent out before the meeting.

Sadly, we have received the resignation of our wonderful Upper School English teacher, Shirley-Ann Thornbury. Shirley-Ann has been at Raphael House since February 2006 and teaches English to Classes 11 and 12. She will be greatly

missed by her students and colleagues. Shirley-Ann will be finishing with us at the end of this first term and will take up full time work at the Correspondence School. We sincerely wish her well and would like to acknowledge and thank her for the high quality work and contribution she has made to the students and to Raphael House during her time with us.

NATIONAL STANDARDS

Last week, I attended a meeting on National Standards in the Hawkes Bay with other members of the Federation of Rudolf Steiner Waldorf Schools. The Federation will be issuing a statement shortly in response to the introduction of National Standards and amendments to the National Administration Guidelines (NAG's) which relate to the standards. As you may know, the spirit and intent of our School emphasizes the unhurried nature of our education. In this context, we consider it appropriate that National Standards are used only in an order that fits with our curriculum and in an age appropriate manner from Class 4 onwards.

We would like to engage in a consultation process with our parent body and as part of this intend to inform you of the nature of all assessments in the School. We take particular note of the requirements of the National Administration Guideline (NAG 2) which outlines the reporting requirements against National Standards. Reporting against the Standards will apply from Class 4 to Class 7.

However, our Board of Trustees and School will decide how we intend to reflect our position on National Standards while aiming for compliance in reporting. We will decide if we intend to submit all results or not engage in reporting on Classes 1-3 at all.

Wishing you an enjoyable weekend.

Karen Brice-Geard

IMPORTANT DATES

TERM DATES:

TERM 1 Finish 1 April 12.30pm
TERM 2: 19 April - 25 June
TERM 3: 19 July - 24 September
TERM 4: 11 October - 17 December

Monday 15 March

Class 3 Camp Kaitoke

18 March

PTFA Meeting, HWR 7.30pm

19 March

Michaelmas Festival - Games Day

22 March

BoT Meeting 7pm

23 March

Te Roopu Tautoko i te Kaupapa Maori Meeting
7.30pm

Thursday 1 April

Easter Festival School finishes at 12.30pm

Monday 19 April

BoT Meeting HWR 7.00pm

24 March

Community Meeting, Eurythmy Room 7.30pm

Wednesday 28 April

Class 5 Parent Evening

Thursday 29 April

Class 12 Parent Evening
Class 6 Parent Evening 7.30pm

SCC UPDATE

We are pleased to report that we have close to three quarters of pledge forms returned and many of you are giving generously, indeed. It is very heartening to see that, especially in today's economic climate. It is your generosity that allows the School to deliver the Waldorf curriculum for the benefit of all the children.

Please let us know if you need a form sent to you or if you like to discuss options for donation payments. If you are finding it difficult, financially, at the moment you may wish to consider the option of using your upcoming 2009 tax rebate for your next donation payment. The Office will send out your tax receipts to claim a rebate from IRD mid-April. For any further information, including on the transfer to the School of your tax refund, please contact: Kay Braid (kay.b@raphaelhouse.school.nz) or Alan Chapman. SCC forms are also available from our Website, at: <http://www.raphaelhouse.school.nz/uploads/media/Pledgeform2010finalv03.doc> or by contacting me (tel 576 2332, email: alan.c@raphaelhouse.school.nz)

Many thanks

Alan Chapman
Resource Manager

PTFA NEWS

We would like to apologise for cancelling our meeting last week on 4 March and a reminder that our next meeting is on the 18 March at 7.30pm, in the Heidi Worth Room. Please feel free to come along.

From Monica on behalf of the PTFA

EXTRA CURRICULAR SPORT

Regional Athletics in both the Upper and Lower School did not eventuate. We will try again next year but camps, dates and facilities proved problematic. Upper School athletics is going ahead with enthusiasm from both teachers and students. Touch in the Lower School is happening. Thanks to the support of volunteer managers, coaches and parents for your help.

WINTER SPORTS BROCHURE: is available for children to collect from the Lower Office. Please read and sign the registration form and return it to Fiona in the Lower Office only, with payment as soon as possible. Deadlines are given in the brochure.

Again a plea to return any uniforms that may still be lingering under beds or behind washing machines or dogs kennel or the like. Costs of sports include competition participation costs, equipment, uniforms and administration.

We still need coaches and managers for all sports, so please volunteer to help your child's team or there may be no teams entered from Raphael House.

Erica Kirby
Sports Co-ordinator

COMMUNITY NOTICES

PARENT CRAFT GROUP

Craft making has started again so come along and join in. All welcome, new comers will be shown how to make all sorts of dolls and the more experienced can share their knowledge and/or just join in and contribute. All proceeds go towards the School and you gain wonderful skills. Children welcome.

Anyone wanting to contribute but can't make it to the group, please get in touch. I have all sorts of exciting projects you can make at home.

Assistant wanted: As next year is my last year at the School, I am looking for someone who can work alongside me with the view of taking it over in 2011.

Group meets Mondays in the Pole Room, under Class 5. 8.30 - 12.45pm,

Jennifer Holdaway

Coordinator for Parent Craft Group: jenh @paradise.net.nz or ring 972 3010

OTHER WALDORF COMMUNITY NOTICES

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY WELLINGTON PROGRAM www.thechristiancommunity.net. Opportunities for visits and meetings: Kevin Coffey 021 0241 6614

Friday 12 March

3.15pm Religion lesson for School Children (at Leonie's Kindergarten)

Saturday 13 March

8.30 am The Act of Consecration of Man

9.30 am Study Group: John 6: 1-15

6.00 pm Shared dinner followed by an open talk

7:30 pm "The Mystery of the 'I AM', the journey from self to Selfhood"

Sunday 14 March

9.30 am Family gathering & The Sunday Service for Children (children aged 7-14 & their parents).

10.30am the Act of Consecration of Man

12 Noon Community Conversation - Exploring the Sacraments

THEY MUST BE CRAZY

by Steven Howard, MA (Psych) ex Parent of Raphael House

I used to think an awful lot of other people were crazy and many of them downright insane! The more I looked around the more it seemed that I must be right. Everyone I knew said the same thing, there really were a heck of a lot of crazy people out there, we could all see it and could point to real examples. Not the same examples, of course. Some people thought that a few of the people I thought were crazy were making sense, and I thought something similar about some of their examples. But, on the whole we generally agreed that there was a veritable epidemic of craziness going around.

How could it be that people, and even large organisations, could behave in ways that defied rational comprehension? If only they could see what I saw and think like I thought the world would be a vastly better place: millions of dollars would be saved, people everywhere would be happier, and things would just make plain sense.

As a young man this striving for a rational world drove me into mathematics, the physical sciences, and computers where there was a certain dependability and agreement on the rules of how things worked. Craziness was reserved for what technologists sometimes refer to as the 'wet-wear' or the mouse-keyboard interface unit. Twenty years down the track and getting bored with the dependability of computers, I looked around for something more complex to understand and discovered these people things. Now, tell me about them.

Once I started down the track of thinking about other people and took up studying psychology it all came as a bit of a shock. It appeared that most people seemed to accept that common sense is in short supply and craziness is endemic in others. The trouble was, when I sat down to speak with people, most of them gave the impression they were quite sane. Even when we differed in opinion, nearly everyone seemed to have a perfectly rational reason for what they said and what they did.

What is more, when I looked at the places I had worked, the same applied to organisations. Although their actions at times appeared completely balmy from the outside, and often on the inside too, when looked at in terms of their history and internal structures, I started to understand that much of what went on actually made sense. And, when I spoke to the people in organisations, almost all of them wanted to do a great job and feel that what they did at work was valued and had meaning.

It all started me thinking that maybe this idea I had about me being rational and others being irrational was getting in the way of my own understanding of what was really happening around me. Maybe the "crazy" thing was just a lazy way of "labelling", so that I did not then have to spend energy on genuinely understanding. Worse, when I thought about it some more, I realised that when I was calling something crazy, I was actually arrogantly making myself out to be superior. That didn't seem to be a good basis for developing a productive relationship with people.

There had to be a solution to this and for me it came through some ideas I came across in Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP) about there being useful (if not always true) beliefs, and there being positive intent in almost every human action. The consequence for me was to reject the notion I had that I hold the standard for rational thinking and behaviour, and that actions that don't fit this are insane. Instead,

I start with the assumption that there is a positive intent for whatever someone or an organisation does. The advantage of this new approach is regardless of whether the assumption is true or not, instead of dismissing what I see as irrational or crazy, it sets me on the path towards understanding what the positive intent might be.

One key thing I have realised through this is that positive intent is not fixed: it depends on a point of view, a state of being at a time or place, the people involved, or even just how the person or organisation got to where they are now. The truth is not everyone wants what I want and what I see as a positive goal is not necessarily positive for someone else. Even then, compromises must be made to achieve what is valued most. The tantrums of a child balance parental anger and punishment against the more prized parental attention. The often inexplicable actions of organisations have to be understood in terms of the external and internal forces creating compromises, conflicting priorities, and apparent disarray.

Most people genuinely believe they are good and they tend to act to preserve their ability to maintain that belief to themselves and the world at large. Holding and defending belief in their own goodness tends to be a very strong positive goal for people; facts that challenge this belief have to be dealt with. In psychological terms, this is called dealing with cognitive dissonance, the gap between belief and observed reality. People typically have three ways of doing this: they can adjust their behaviour; they might reinterpret the facts; or in some cases they will deny observed reality. The same concept applies to organisations where mission statements are invariably couched in terms of their role in creating a societal or personal good. No matter how objectionable or destructive their observed actions may be, people and organisations will have ways of holding to this fundamental belief and dealing with whatever threatens it. Understanding this process and how it is working provides a key to unlocking a lot of what happens around us.

Overall, the search for positive motivation has enabled me to connect with others in ways I had not thought possible before I started on this path. It helps me to deal with the otherwise bizarre and inexplicable, and connects me with people on a plane of understanding rather than criticism or judgement. It is amazing how relationships with individuals and organisations shift when you assume that almost everyone out there is trying to do their best within the boundaries of their abilities and what they think they can do. The "crazy" label was a mental shortcut expressed in how I spoke about and thought about events and actions I did not understand. Spoken by enough people these shortcuts create a generalised misunderstanding and breakdown of relationships between people and organisations.

Steven Howard is a management consultant and personal coach. Since leaving corporate life in 2003 he has helped some of New Zealand's leading technology companies to submit quality contract proposals aimed at their client's business goals and organisational culture.

(Reprinted with permission of the author and NZAOT. First published in the OT Insight, Vol 31, No 1. February 2010 (magazine of the New Zealand Association of Occupational Therapists))

BIOGRAPHICAL COUNSELLING

Biographical Counselling is inspired by the indications given by Rudolf Steiner and seeks to expand your experience and insight of now, amidst influences from your past together with what is coming towards you from your destiny. I am now available in the Lower Hutt and Kapiti areas for Biographical Counselling. One hour sessions. \$50.00 - \$65.00. Please contact me if you are interested or would like more information. Judy Frost-Evans 021-112 1244 home: 04-239 8346 e-mail: judytravelling@hotmail.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.

HOUSE TO HOUSE-SIT or beachy/forestry bach, or innercity home/cottage or swap houses with us for a night or two (sunny Lower Hutt Western Hills) required over the Easter weekend. Looking for a holiday, with or without animals to look after, maybe Kapiti coast, or anywhere within 3 hours driving. Phone Victoria 589 1160.

MUSIC LESSONS! Loving, experienced, Suzuki and Waldorf teacher, professional violinist/violist, accepting students at my home in Belmont. All levels welcome. Please call 586 5777 or email davidyalison@yahoo.com

HOUSE FOR RENT Three bedroom house in central Lower Hutt. Fenced, with deck, carport, storage shed. Easy care section. No smokers, no dogs. Rent \$410 per week. Chris Penman, Ph 566 4977 or cpenman@clear.net.nz

SECTION FOR SALE Walk To school! 1474m2 in Avonlea Grove. Great views from building site and some bush \$160,000 Phone Victoria and Martin 565 4444

ADVENTUROUS HOUSE SITTERS REQUIRED: FROM 30/4- 7/5. Best views in Wgtn (one of the 10 highest homes in the region). Converted quirky barn, warm, cozy, 4 bedrooms, 2 lounge. Families with pets welcome. Duties will include gazing at the view and shipping, watching the weather change & animal care. Spare car with full tank provided. 20 minutes from School or the CBD. Email luvette@alama.co.nz. Tel: 586 9292

FREE TO A GOOD HOME. Hello my name is Maslow and I am a beautiful, clever affectionate 16 month old Bunny. I am looking for a special new home. I am a free-range bunny and have used the litter tray since I was a week old. I have a healthy appetite but even more than my love for food, I adore my morning brush and massage hugs and kisses. Can you resist having me? Phone 021 1399 033

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