



RAPHAEL HOUSE  
RUDOLF STEINER SCHOOL  
BUSH TELEGRAPH

Term 1, Issue 4  
26 February, 2010

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Friends,

The Upper School is very quiet this week with Classes 8, 10, 11 and 12 all away on their camps. Class 9 are enjoying having the entire Upper School to themselves and have a special programme this week with Phillip Robinson, Grant Rossiter, Verena Smkatz-Kloss, Shirley-Anne Thornbury and Ray Shore. It is wonderful that the weather is warm and settled for the classes away and we look forward to hearing about their adventures on their return next week.

**COMMUNICATION:** As part of the review of communications at Raphael House we will be reviewing the Bush Telegraph. As you will have noticed we have simplified the copy this term with the logo and School name only. The drawing previously used was drawn by an ex-pupil but is now not able to be used as the original sketch is so faded. The Parents, Teachers and Friends Association (PTFA) have offered to assist in the consultation process of the Bush Telegraph and you will be hearing from them in the coming weeks.

**Te Ra School** As you may well have heard our sister school, Te Ra, is potentially going to be strongly affected by the current decision for the planned express-way. The plan is for this to go close-by or through Te Ra School. A petition from ASK is available (Alliance for Sustainable Kapiti), as which is an evolving informal alliance of community organizations and individuals who have united to preserve the character of Kapiti and its local communities, by opposing any new expressway and lobbying for a sustainable approach to transport and development in the area. If you would like to give your support, you can sign the petition. The website is available through [ASK@](mailto:ASK@kol.co.nz)

kol.co.nz Signed hard copies can also be sent to P.O. Box 25, Paekakariki or dropped off at the Te Ra School office.

Wishing you an enjoyable weekend.  
Karen Brice-Geard

IMPORTANT DATES TERM 1

Thursday 4 March

PTFA meeting HWR 7.30pm

Tuesday 9 March

Class 4 Parent Evening 7.30pm

Wednesday 10 March

Upper School Athletics Day  
Class 7 Parent Evening 7.30pm

Thursday 11 March

Postponement day for US Athletics

Monday 15 March

BOT meeting 7pm

Thursday 1 April

Easter Festival School finishes at  
12.30pm

Monday 19 April

BOT meeting HWR 7.00pm

Wednesday 28 April

Class 5 Parent Evening

Thursday 29 April

Class 12 Parent Evening  
Class 6 Parent Evening 7.30pm

## UPDATE FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board had its first 2010 meeting on Monday in the Heide Werth room. As previously communicated, Paul Kirby has resigned from the Board and the Board welcomed Paul Denford as a new Proprietors' Representative.

Chloe Kasoulides (Executive Officer) presented the 2010 Board budget which achieves the goal of a 2% surplus of the net operations grant. Fine tuning of expenditure has allowed us to plan for a larger proportion to be spent on Curriculum materials than we have had in the past. To meet the budget will, however, require considerable fiscal discipline and co-operation of all involved, staff and community to maximize the resources available to achieve what the School is about.

We have already spent about \$6,000 on stationery and art material since the year has started and before any disbursements have been charged. Our students will again receive high quality materials to do their work and we count on your continued support through the Standard Disbursements donation to provide these resources.

The dates for the 2010 community meetings have been set for Wednesdays, as follows: Term 1: 24 March, Term 2: 9 June, Term 3: 8 September. Topics and agendas are still to be finalised.

A review of the School's enrolment procedures and processes is underway and the Board resolved to accept an offer from one of our parents, who is skilled in process analysis and improvement, to assist with this review. I would like to thank Lucette Hogg for her kind offer and look forward to working with her.

Every 3 years an election is held to elect a new Board of Trustees. Any parent or caregiver is eligible to stand for election (with some conditions relating to bankruptcy, mental health or criminal background). Board members should not have a particular personal agenda but be committed to supporting the overall vision and direction of the whole School. There are 4 parents' representatives to be elected this time. Please consider if you would like to stand and help make a difference for the School. The key dates are:

by 15 March - Nominations open  
Noon 23 April - Nominations close  
by 28 April - Voting forms posted out  
7 May - Voting closes  
13 May - Votes counted and results declared

If you have any questions about the Board you may contact me at: chair@raphael-house.school.nz.

Adrian von Aesch  
Chair, Board of Trustees

## UPDATE FROM THE TRUST

Last month we farewelled Janet Thomson and welcomed Adrian von Aesch onto the Trust. We are deeply grateful for Janet's hard work and dedication in the years she has served with us. Janet is well known to many as a School parent and as an Eurythmist and Therapist. She has been a strong advocate for the Kalisko impulse in the School and community and it is in this area she now intends to focus her energies.

Janet has been a great strength to the Trust and a strong advocate for Raphael House. She will be greatly missed, but we wish her all the very best in the valuable task she is undertaking.

Many thanks, Janet!

We look forward to working with Adrian who brings his experience from the Board of Trustees at Te Rā, and his business management experience, Adrian's three children attended Te Rā and two are now in the Upper School. Adrian is known to many parents in the Christian Community and the Anthroposophical Society. He has also served as a Proprietors Rep on the BOT of Raphael House and will be continuing in that role.

Paul Kirby recently resigned as a Proprietors' Rep on the BoT. Our sincere thanks to Paul for his willingness and commitment over the last year. His excellent work on the curriculum sub-committee has been particularly appreciated. Thank you, Paul!

Paul Denford will take Paul's place on the BoT.

We look forward to 2010 as a year in which to complete the changes initiated in 2009 and to consolidate these already made.

Paul Denford for Rudolf Steiner School Trust

#### PROPRIETORS EXECUTIVE GROUP (PEG) UPDATE

PEG is the operational arm of the Rudolf Steiner School Trust, charged with managing the Trust interests. Over recent months, PEG has continued to discuss and work on numerous property and funding issues. Central to our tasks is being able to channel funds, donated by the community, to support both property developments and those special character costs not paid for by the MoE, including some staff positions. To do so effectively we need to be able to budget, which in turn relies on the community informing us what that they are planning to donate each year. We had asked for this information to be provided by last year. To date we have received forms back for 167 families; that is a return rate of 69%. Many have been generous responses, with families offering more than the minimum contribution requested. This generosity and the timeliness of the responses are much appreciated.

As a consequence of less than 100% response, we have not yet been able to finalise a Trust budget, which coming up to the end of the first quarter of the year, is a concern. We would hope that the communal responsibility we all share, by being part of Raphael House, will see the balance of the SCC forms returned in the next few weeks.

We are in the process of finalising the use of Toy Craft and Food Festival fundraising. In combination with the Organising Committee, funds have been agreed for use on the Lower School Playgrounds (using funds retained from previous years), data projectors for the Upper School and the 2009 Class 12 farewell books. Lower School staff are considering draft plans for the playground and the data projectors and books have been purchased.

While the 2009 Trust accounts are still being prepared for audit, an end of year surplus has been achieved. Some of this has been used to retire debt and establish reserves for major maintenance costs, something that has been lacking. With the increasing age of the School, this becomes more necessary.

A PEG mandated fundraising group has been very active in developing strategies for expanding our funding base and publicising the School. A stall at the new Frank Kitts

Park market has attracted much interest and is a significant “window” on the School for the Wellington community. Offers from parents to staff the stall would be appreciated.

As many will know, over recent months, the Trust has been reviewing its policies and processes, especially given the changes to School structures arising from the Limited Statutory Manager’s suggestions. PEG members have been very involved in supporting the Trust to prepare documents covering strategic thinking, annual planning, communications and its own governance policies. Included in its focus is developing a social contract which will more clearly describe the mutual expectations and responsibilities between parents and the School, which no longer seems as evident as in past years.

In coming months, PEG expects to progress plans for resolving the Upper School’s classroom congestions, in response to the pleas of staff. We would also anticipate our financial management tasks to be pivotal, to ensure that parent donations are applied effectively and appropriately to the School’s needs.

Current PEG members are: Alan Chapman (Chair), Paul Denford (Trustee), Chris Penman (who leads the Fundraising Group) and Andrew Fisher (who is also member of PEG’s Building Development Group). Other regular attendees are Chloe Kasoulides (Executive Officer) and the Trust’s (Proprietors’) representatives on the Board of Trustees, Adrian von Aesch and (until recently) Paul Kirby. The Principal, Karen Brice-Geard, attends when requested to do so.

Alan Chapman  
Chair

#### FROM THE OFFICE

The Administration team would like to thank all those who paid for camps (or made arrangements) over the last week; this is the best we’ve ever experienced.

And the trophy goes to Class 6 for having completed the task over 1 week before they leave. We hope you all have a great time.

from the Administration Team



#### PARENT LIBRARY

The Parent Library is open again on Tuesday and Thursday morning from 8.45am - 9.30am and on Friday afternoon from 3pm-3.30pm.

Come in and check our new books. We’ve got some quite exciting new titles, e.g. Why children don’t listen, by Monika Kiel-Hinrichsen, Educating the Will, by Michael Howard, or What is Art, by Joseph Beuys. Another inspiring book is Full Moon Feast by Jessica Prentice. “Full Moon Feast realizes a fundamental relationship to food, one that weaves history, anthropology, folk life, myth, medicine, a personal journey and, of course, food itself into a whole” (Deborah Madison, from the Foreword).

From Magrita, the Parent Library

## SPORTS UNIFORMS

Please return all sports uniforms. We desperately need children to have a good look around their homes to find RHRSS Sports Uniforms. At present we do not have enough uniforms to send our teams out to play sport in. All uniforms can be dropped off at the Lower Office.

Thank you.  
Erica Kirby - Sports Coordinator

## RAPHAEL HOUSE UPPER SCHOOL BUS

After a three month pregnancy, a new bus service from the Kapiti Coast to Raphael House Upper School birthed on the first day of this term. This marks a significant milestone in the history of both Te Ra Waldorf School and Raphael House Rudolf Steiner School. Both Schools have a very warm and supportive relationship that goes back to the very beginning of Te Ra School and beyond. The Proprietors Trusts of both schools have supported this venture, knowing that this linkage of a bus provides confidence to Kapiti Coast parents considering Waldorf education for their children to the full extent of the curriculum from Kindergarten right through to Class 12.

The "Bus Committee" would like to thank all parties involved, (to numerous to mention but you know who you are) in assisting the "birth" of this most recent enterprise. By all accounts, the children greatly enjoy the bus and the social opportunities it provides. Although the bus is being trialled for a term, we look forward to a long and successful service on into the future.

Please contact for practical issues or questions, contact Nick at nicks @kol.co.nz for financial information, contact Ralph, at ralph @tera.school.nz, for general enquiries and communication to the Bus community, contact Shelly at shellandzoot @xtra.co.nz. Causal use of the bus is available to the school community for \$7.00 a ride between the Kapiti Coast and the Hutt Valley return, leaving Paraparaumu Railway Station 7am and Raphael House 3.05pm.

Nick, Shelly, Kate, Steph & Ralph (Raphael House Bus Committee)

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Did you know that our School, with all its hard-working teachers and staff is supported by a large number of parents who volunteer to help run the various committees and activity groups that collectively help keep the School community the vibrant place it is? Without all this support a lot of things just couldn't happen.

Would you like to help somewhere? If you are new to the School and keen to be involved, or have been here a while and are interested in being involved further, would you like to consider being involved in any of these activities?

- Fundraising
- Publicity
- Toy Food & Craft Festival
- Archiving
- Plus more....
- Board of Trustees
- PTFA (Parent/Teacher Assn)
- Adult Education
- Sports teams

Some groups/committees have casual membership, and some, like the Board of Trustees and the PTFA, have elected members but all groups welcome additional support in various forms. For more information on these groups and how to get involved, contact either Alan Chapman (Resource Manager) 576 2332 alan.c @raphaelhouse.school.nz, or Chris Penman (Parent) 566 4977 cpenman @clear.net.nz.

## PTFA COMMITTEE

Just a reminder that we are having our next meeting on Thursday, 4 March at 7.30pm in the Heidi Worth Room. Please feel free to come along.

from Monica, on behalf of the PTFA

## COMMUNITY NOTICES

Hello lovely parents, teachers and staff,

We would like to introduce our beautiful Sunday child, Lina Marama Schwalm to the community. Thank you so much for your good thoughts and words, prayers and fantastic support. It certainly helped.

Love from the "4" Schwalms: Claudia, Daniel, Jonas and Lina



## WHAT'S ON

### FROM THE GOLDEN AGE

A PROGRAMME OF MUSIC FROM THE 17TH Century to the present day. Presented by international Harpist Robin Ward. Wednesday 3 March @ 7.30pm. St John's Anglican Church, 18 Bassett Road, Johnsonville Wellington. Bookings & Enquiries 04 973 1729. Adults \$15/concession \$10/under 18 donation. [www.earlyharps.com](http://www.earlyharps.com)

RINKE VISSER  
IN NEW ZEALAND

THE MAGIC OF TRIPTYCHONS

An exciting new way to work with your life questions, find resolution in conflict,  
develop new skills for helping others.

In Wellington for one day 13 March, 2010  
For individual consultation, counselling.

Rinke Visser is a Dutch biography specialist who developed this special process. He says: In its original form, a triptychon is an altarpiece consisting of three parts and this was my inspiration. The triptych consists of three simple images drawn by the client, each one representing a life situation. Together they form a whole which is more than the sum of its parts.

These three drawings are the basis for a creative process where the qualities of imagination, intuitive awareness and inspiration play an important role.

The human biography is holy ground. I guess you can say that everyone has questions about his own life. The triptych process has been designed for people who search for a deeper understanding of that.

Information and Registration: Elaine Beadle 09 422 0661 miracompanions @xtra.co.nz

BOOKS MISSING

There is a bookshelf  
Where are the stories?  
Hiding away from me  
Eyes that see  
Great Father Storyteller  
He calls from the sky  
"Come out stories, come out now,  
The children are waiting  
For words to unfold  
And be filled with wonder from stories of old!"

I have lent my personal collection of Steiner Kindergarten stories to someone in need. If  
this notice jogs your memory, please return to Tessa's place at  
13 Laery Street, Alicetown A.S.A.P.  
Thank you Julie Coldwell (586 1237)

## 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.

**HOLIDAY HOME** available for weekends and the Easter School holidays at Te Horo Beach on the Kapiti Coast. Discount for School families. Email [cpenman@clear.net.nz](mailto:cpenman@clear.net.nz) for photos and description or visit [www.bookabach.co.nz/Te\\_Horo\\_beachhouse](http://www.bookabach.co.nz/Te_Horo_beachhouse)  
Chris Penman Ph 566 4977

**HELP! STEINER FAMILY** has 4 weeks to find another home, to rent or buy. Near Steiner School would be great or Hutt Valley/Petone area. 3-4+ Brms, for 2 adults/2 children. 1 beloved cat. A sleepout/studio on land would be a bonus.

Ph Bascha 569 7858, txt 021 0238 0070, email:[soulcare@paradise.net.nz](mailto:soulcare@paradise.net.nz)

**FREE TO A GOOD HOME** Two young budgies, Paddy and Charlie, sadly need to be given away either separately or together to approved, kind, cat-free home. One blue, one purple, probably both boys. Big new cage available for \$40.00  
Phone Victoria 589 1160

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](mailto:fiona.d@raphaelhouse.school.nz)