

THE FRIDAY FLIER

KOTAHITANGA

Waikato Waldorf School, Kindergartens and Playcircle



No: 03

17 February 2017

Dear Waikato Waldorf Community



This week has been very special for our school and kindy staff, as we were visited by Torin Finser, Ph.D., who took a moment out from his holiday to visit our beautiful school.

Torin is Chair of the Education Department of Antioch University, New England and founding member of the Centre for Anthroposophy in Wilton, NH. He has been an educator for three decades and has been a keynote speaker at conferences in China, Korea, Nepal, South Africa, Norway, England, Switzerland, Canada and throughout the United States. He serves as General Secretary of the Anthroposophical Society in America. Torin has also written extensively - you may be familiar with School as a Journey: The Eight-Year Odyssey of a Waldorf Teacher and His Class (1994).

Class 7 & 8 did us proud, welcoming Torin and his family with a traditional Haka and Mihi Whakatau. We then visited all the classrooms and were delighted with music, art and movement lessons. After school Torin gave us a brief glimpse into his life followed by rich discussions with our staff. We left feeling energised and inspired, firm in our knowledge that we are all continuing this journey in building an amazing Waldorf Community in Hamilton.

Warm wishes

Sue

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday	22 February	Clothes Swap	from 2.30 to 3.30pm
Wednesday	22 February	BOT Meeting	
Thursday	9 March	'Mucking in' Day	
Thursday	16 March	Autumn Festival	
Sunday	26 March	Medieval Carnival	
Monday	27 March	Teacher Only Day	(School closed)

Melanie Lints – Class 6 Teacher

Kia ora koutou, I am the Class 7 teacher based in the Pirongia Classroom at the far end of the school. I am a very proud mother of 3 wonderful children and 3 lovely grandchildren. I arrived in Hamilton last year after living on the Tutukaka coast up northeast of Whangarei for most of my life. I came into teaching only 20 years ago, having done a range of jobs before that. I studied at Auckland University, gaining first a Degree in Teaching, then a Post-Graduate Diploma followed by completing my Masters in Education. My Thesis centred around what enables children to learn and how teachers can differentiate the learning environment. I then lectured at the University for a time and had my own Educational Resource and Consultancy business for a while before returning to University to complete a Diploma in Early Childhood and Teaching Specialisation Certificate. Although not Rudolf Steiner trained, the philosophy and pedagogical approach (how to teach) is in keeping with my research and experience thus far and I continue my learning journey into Waldorf Education. I am thoroughly enjoying my time here in Hamilton and especially getting to know all the wonderful people attached to this inspiring and unique school.



Elizabeth Swanepoel – Class 6 Teacher

I have been a Steiner/Waldorf teacher for nearly 23 years, and have worked in all three sectors of the Waldorf school system: briefly as a kindergarten assistant, fifteen years as a High School English teacher in a large, well-established, independent Waldorf school in Johannesburg, and then as a Steiner class teacher. I have been a Waldorf/Steiner teacher trainer since 2004, and also served as the deputy administrator for two years at the school in Johannesburg. I have a M.Ed. in Steiner/Waldorf education and a PhD in Tibetan Buddhism. My husband and I have three children, all of whom have attended Waldorf schools.



Class 6

All of a sudden, the children who have been so beautiful, so harmoniously co-ordinated in their bodies in the Golden Age of Class 5, shift into another growth spurt! The bones in their arms and legs suddenly lengthen; shirt-sleeves and trousers are noticeably short and it is obvious that the forces of growth have moved into their limbs. What was previously quite easy for them now seems to require an effort of will on their part. It is a time of transformation of the will as they learn to work consciously to create what they want to achieve. As the growth forces are now working especially on the skeleton, a new way of thinking begins to emerge. The children begin to see the result of an action, to develop systematic logical thinking and to understand the 'bare bones' of a pattern of thought.

The children in Class 6 are demanding to be recognised in a different way from before. They feel capable of coming to their own conclusions, of making their own decisions. They want to be able to solve real problems, to organise their own schedules and projects, to work out the ground rules of the class. And this is exactly what we did in the first days back at school! The class has drawn up their own classroom rules and determined the consequences for any transgressions! This is displayed prominently in the class on an emerald green poster beautifully written out by some of the girls!

The Waldorf curriculum meets the challenges of the Class 6 child with "real" history. They are now ready for history that really happened, not so much history that is clothed in myth and legend any more. Rudolf Steiner proposed that children at this age hear stories of civilisation in which everything was highly structured, and in which the material world was conquered through a new, systematic way of thinking. The stories of the ancient Romans and how they developed from a few scattered tribes along the river Tiber to the mighty empire under the Caesars, is the background material chosen for the Class 6 children who long to meet the 'real world'. We therefore delved straight into our main lesson on Ancient Rome, which will be followed by a second main lesson block on the same theme later in the year. The children learn about the seven kings of Rome and how the Romans later chose to reject the monarchy and rule themselves with the formation of the senate and the establishment of the republic of Rome. This is followed by stories of how the Romans built up power as a nation, and how they developed machinery of war to deal with the Carthaginian threat under Hannibal. There is the rise of Julius and Augustus Caesar, under whom flourished the development of culture, buildings, aqueducts, laws and the ways in which the Romans managed to rule their foreign conquests so successfully. Finally there is the decline of the Roman Empire.

The reason why the study of Rome is so important for Class 6 is that it illustrates the organisation and decentralisation of power which echoes beautifully the inner soul yearnings of the Class 6 child on the brink of adolescence.

Elizabeth Swanepoel



Sunday 26th March 2017, 10am-3pm

YAY - Only 5 weeks to the Medieval Carnival!!

It takes all of the community to make this event a successful fundraiser for the school.

We warmly encourage our families to help toward the Medieval Carnival in any of the following ways:

Remember to sign up for your Class Stall - Your classroom or group has been allocated one or more stalls, each stall needs:

- a Stall coordinator (or check with your Class Liaison)
- People to set it up on the Saturday from 10am & pack it down at the conclusion of the carnival
- everyone to run the stall on the day – usually an hour or two per person,

Many of the stalls have special requirements like the making of prizes, food items, and items for sale so please inquire about this.

Flyers - Please distribute these flyers around your community on notice boards, on business counters, schools, community groups and in mailboxes in your neighbourhood. If you require extras there will be some available at the school office.

Please like and share our **Facebook** page. Medieval Carnival – Waikato Waldorf School
Can you insert the Medieval Carnival logo into your **email signature**? Contact us if you would like a copy.

Raffle Items – Please find an item (fitting with our philosophy please) to donate for the raffles. Collection boxes will be at the school & kindergarten offices, at Rimu Cottage, and at Kowhai and Tui Whare.

Entertainment – if you have a talent and would like to perform please send us an email or talk to a PA member

Children's shop – requires small natural handmade items. Please drop off to Miro House.

Set up crews are required for Saturday from 10am and also pack down crews for after the Carnival on the Sunday.

Do you have any of the following items at home that can be borrowed for the day? Gazebos, Trestle tables?

We are very fortunate to have Parent Association members from every class, so please ask around if you have questions, or need help with your stall(s) setup.

Anyone interested in joining the Parents Association group is welcome to come to our next meeting on Thursday 2nd March, 7pm, in the Community room.

Any questions can be sent to paatwvs@gmail.com or you can text Adrienne on 027 4278924.

REMINDERS

- ⇒ Please return completed 'Parent / Carer Skills Audit' and 'Parent Enrichment Opportunities' by Friday 24th February.
- ⇒ We have a number of plates or bowls, left after last year's events, sitting outside the office. Any unclaimed items will be donated to 'Habitat for Humanity' this coming Tuesday.
- ⇒ Please hand in your Pledge Form for 2017 (even if you have started your payments). Thanks.
- ⇒ Please inform the office of any changes in your address details before we publish the address directory for the year.

CLOTHING FREECYCLE EVENT

Wednesday 22nd February 2:30 – 3:30pm

Underneath the vines outside the community room

Come along to our community clothing freecycle event next Wednesday and restock your wardrobes for the coming seasons.

Simply drop any clothes you no longer want into Monika in the school office before the event and then turn up on the afternoon and take away any clothes you like. No money changes hands. Men's women's and children's clothes and footwear are welcome. Please ensure clothing adheres to the school clothing guidelines. Any leftover clothing is donated to the Hamilton Women's Refuge or other charity shops.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

These notices are published as a service to the school community. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor, and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Faculty.

AVAILABLE FOR FREE

Lots of packing boxes (book and standard carton size), plus large shipment wrap.

Please contact Sarah Oliver on 027 805 0850 before this Monday (20th Feb) if you would like any.

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Creamed Silverbeet

INGREDIENTS

- 1 tsp butter
- 1-2 tsp crushed garlic
- 1 bunch silverbeet, sliced
- 2 Tbsp cream
- 2-3 Tbsp Parmesan cheese



METHOD

Heat butter in a large pan and gently cook garlic for 1 minute. Add silverbeet and toss until wilted. Pour over cream and parmesan and heat gently for 1 minute. Season with salt and pepper if desired. Serve immediately.

TIPS This recipe also works well with spinach

<http://www.foodinaminute.co.nz/Recipes/Creamed-Silverbeet>

February In The Vegie Patch

FEBRUARY 1, 2017 BY [KATH IRVINE](#)

Where ever you are, be sure to get your winter garden underway this month. It's a lot of work turning beds over that are dry and hungry, so [here are some tips to help you out.](#) Being in the wet, cool half of the country, this job has been delightfully easy. Weeding is a doddle and the soil is in great nick, it needs no reviving. Pros and cons to everything.

What to Sow and Plant in February

- Direct sow dwarf beans, basil, beetroot, carrots, parsnips, fennel. I get all my winter carrots and parsnips underway this month. They'll be mature by the time the soil cools off and keep beautifully over winter in nature's fridge.
- Direct sow companion flowers like calendula, chamomile, larkspur, wallflower, cornflower, snapdragons, love in a mist, borage
- Direct sow greencrops – phacelia, lupin, buckwheat or mustard to give your soil a rest between crops, prepare ground for brassicas (lupin is the best here), and to provide mulch for autumn plantings.
- Direct sow (in the shade) coriander, parsley, saladings, kale, rocket
- Tray sow silverbeet, spring onion, celery
- Plant out your last zucchini and leeks for spring

Plant out broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, kale, silverbeet, parsley, celery. If the sun beats down a la Gisborne, erect a shade cloth above these guys. This keeps those with a preference for mild rather than hot, growing onward, rather than wasting energy recovering from dehydration. Another step I can skip.

[HTTP://WWW.EDIBLEBACKYARD.CO.NZ/FEBRUARY-IN-THE-VEGIE-PATCH-2/](http://www.ediblebackyard.co.nz/february-in-the-vegie-patch-2/)

