

THE FRIDAY FLIER

KOTAHITANGA WAIKATO WALDORF SCHOOL, KINDERGARTENS AND PLAYCIRCLES



No: 26
Date: 3 September 2011

Waikato Waldorf School provides an engaging education that affirms children as individuals.
The school's principles are based on the educational ideas of Rudolf Steiner.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

14 SEPTEMBER	TEACHERS' PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	SCHOOL CLOSSES AT 2PM
20 SEPTEMBER	'A JOURNEY THROUGH WAIKATO WALDORF SCHOOL'	7PM
21 SEPTEMBER	SPRING FESTIVAL	DETAILS TO FOLLOW

Dear Community, Kia ora te whanau!

Last weekend I attended the Federation meeting in Wellington. The 2 day meeting covered many aspects; I just wish to mention a few to you:

The Steiner/Waldorf Schools in NZ now have a recognised Steiner School Certificate which is valid as a university entrance alongside NCEA, Cambridge Certificate and the International Baccalaureate. This is a huge achievement which was celebrated and acknowledged.

The Federation also ratified the Curriculum guidelines for Rudolf Steiner/ Waldorf Schools in NZ. This document is the result of the work done by representatives from Steiner/Waldorf Schools across New Zealand who gathered at discussion and consultation forums in order to plan direction. You will find a copy of this document in our teacher/parent library and you are welcome to borrow it.

Because we need to comply with National Standards at this stage, an agreement between all Steiner schools in NZ to present to the Ministry of Education an acceptable alternative was also discussed; here is the agreement in short form:

- Steiner Integrated Schools will monitor and report using Learning Steps up to the end of Class 5.
- We will continue our current reporting to parents but there will be no reporting to parents or students on National Standards until the beginning of Class 6.
- Steiner Integrated Schools will monitor and report using Learning Steps in Classes 6 and 7.
- In Class 6 and 7 the Learning Steps will be explicitly related to the National Standards and schools will report to students and parents on progress towards National Standards according to the NAG's (twice a year in writing in plain language).

This agreement will be presented to the Ministry of Education. The Federation is also seeking further legal advice as to how to strategise this to achieve the best possible result for our children without compromising our Special Character. The discussion between schools is ongoing and I will keep you informed.

I will be in Germany next week as it is my parents' 60th wedding anniversary and the BOT has kindly given me leave to be with my family. Carl Saunders will be Acting Principal and will be available for any urgent matters whilst I am away.

Have a great weekend and yes, go the ALL BLACKS!

Aroha nui

Marianne Inkrot

Please note:

On Wednesday 14th September the school will close at 2pm. Our teachers will have an afternoon of professional development. Please pick your child up then. In case you are not able to do so, there will be supervision until 3pm. Thank you for your support.

We wish to invite you to a very special event:

'A journey through Waikato Waldorf School'

Tuesday 20th September 2011 at 7pm

After a short introduction in the hall, all class teachers will be taking you through their classrooms, starting with Class 1, and presenting work and curriculum content and speaking about its relevance for that specific age.

Please let me know if there are any specific questions you may want to have answered – just pop a note to Monika.

The whole faculty looks forward to seeing you there!!!

CRAFT - REMINDER

The 2nd part of our Doll Making Course is tomorrow 10th September from 10am – 2pm. at the Kindergarten.



. Mieke 021 171 3061

NETBALL WORLD CUP

What an exciting few weeks it has been watching the teams play in the Waikato Waldorf School Netball World Cup.

Four teams of children from classes 4 - 7, captained by Isabella, Catherine, Jess and Jadzia played three games each. The two teams with the most points at the end of these games went through to the final which was played on Tuesday lunchtime.

It has been wonderful to see the captains' step up and take on a fairly demanding leadership role. They were responsible for organising their whole team into positions, ensuring every player played part of every game, changing tactics and players' positions when and where necessary, as well as maintaining a level head under pressure.

The standard of play was very high, as were the teamwork and skills displayed, but what stood out more than anything was the encouragement, fair play and wonderful sense of team spirit displayed by all teams. What a delight the spectators witnessed!

The final had everyone on the edge of their seats. Jess and Catherine's teams fought hard and fair to tie at full time - six goals a piece. Into extra time, again a very even game with either team in with a chance to win. With some outstanding play down the court Jess's team just clinched the final goal to become the overall champions of 2011. It so easily could have gone the other way - the best game of the tournament!! Well done to all the players what fabulous teamwork and effort you displayed - see you again next year.

Sharon

NETBALL LEAGUE SATURDAY MORNING

On behalf of Tania and myself I would like to express our sincere thanks and gratitude to all the girls in the school's netball team for their beautiful gifts and cards. It has been an absolute pleasure to coach the team this season and see such a transformation in their skill level, teamwork, commitment and confidence. Well done girls!!

I would also like to express my gratitude to Tania who has turned up every week to umpire our games, without her we would not have been able to play. Thank you Tania we really appreciate the time you have given the team this season.

Sharon

INTER-SCHOOLS SPORTS TOURNAMENT

On Tuesday 27th September the Fairfield sports cluster is holding its inaugural inter-schools winter sports tournament. Schools within the cluster, which we are part of, will meet at Southwell School at 9.30 to take part in this event. It is for children in years 5 and 6. We will be fielding two soccer teams and two netball teams. All class 5 and 6 children will be coming home with a letter next week with more details and a permission slip for parents to sign. More details to follow.

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.

NATIONAL STANDARDS

On Monday morning, David Bennett, MP for Hamilton East (National), paid a visit to our school and a group of parents spoke to him about National standards policy. We also gave him a letter outlining our key concerns about the impact of the Standards on our children and the special character of our school.

To his credit, David spent a great deal of time with us and was prepared to listen to our concerns, as well as outline his own perspective.

David made points about the Standards being part of a strategy to address the students in mainstream schools who fail to achieve literacy and numeracy within the school system, and the consequences of this for these children, and society as a whole.

We made points about our right to choose a different education for our own children, the incompatibility of the Standards with our Steiner curriculum, but also broader questions about how National Standards can be seen as the solution to the problems he had outlined and why the government is undermining the professional judgement of teachers and principals!

David made it clear that the Minister will **not** allow Steiner schools to opt out of the Standards and remaining integrated requires compliance. However, he indicated that a level of flexibility and negotiation around the application of the standards would be expected and the special character of the school means that the benchmarks will be less important to the parents who have chosen this school, potentially allowing the school more freedom in how they are applied.

This has left us with further questions to investigate, as the 'flexibility' he mentioned has definitely not been evident in any of the material/discussion/letters with the Minister, and is not our understanding of how the policy will be applied!

UPDATE

Marianne attended a meeting of Steiner school principals on National Standards last Wednesday (thank you again, all those who took time to get those letters in quickly!). The Steiner principals have decided to work together to try and negotiate ways of working with the Standards that will preserve the special character of our schools. This will be discussed in depth at the Federation meeting this weekend in Wellington and Marianne will report on this next week. The Federation of Steiner schools will carry on negotiating with the Minister and we will hope for the 'flexibility' that David Bennett indicated.

Kimberly Jackson & Anna Blackler



Te Ra Waldorf School,
Raumati South on the Kapiti Coast
Class 1 teacher 2012

We are looking for an enthusiastic Waldorf teacher to guide our next year's Class 1 through their primary school journey. Te Ra Waldorf School is a state integrated primary school with a strong commitment to the Waldorf Special Character and our New Zealand heritage. State and Waldorf teaching qualification/experience, a love for children, excellent teamwork skills and plenty of humour are essential. Please contact Doris Zuur on ph. 299-0813 or doris@tera.school.nz for more information and job description. Closing date for applications: 24th September 2011

ST ANNE'S ANGLICAN CONGREGATION

Thanks to the generous co-operation of the Board and Principal of Waikato Waldorf School we are able to have our service on this coming Sunday morning,

10th September 2011, in the School hall.

We will begin at 10am with an Anglican Family Service of Holy Communion.

Our new congregation is being established by St Peter's Anglican Cathedral in Rototuna for those who live in the area or who have a connection with it. The Dean of the Cathedral, Jan Joustra, and the Cathedral's Canon Pastor Phil Wilson, will alternate Sunday by Sunday in leading services. We warmly welcome all who would like to be part of an exciting new venture in Hamilton's fastest growing area. Children are especially welcome.

October School Holidays TuiGlen farm Kids Camps

Exclusive Horse riding camps catering for beginners to advanced riders.

Ages: 8 to 16 years - Length: 1 to 7 days (day campers are also welcome)

Maximum number: 20 kids

What does it include? - Full 24hour supervision – Accommodation - Three meals a day - All activities - Individual attention

For other activities and information, check out our website @ www.tuiglenfarm.com

Enquires & bookings phone:

07 3236 4567 or 027 232 5367



GO, GROW, GLOW!

Next time you make your lunch, check to see if it contains something to help you **GO, GROW** and **GLOW!**

- GO** with a sandwich 
- GLOW** with a couple of pieces of fruit or some carrot sticks 
- GROW** with a pottle of yoghurt, a boiled egg, a handful of nuts or some ham, tuna or cheese on your sandwich 

**They gave
football a go
and so can you**



Girls Go For Goal!

Free Football Festival as part of Girls and Woman's Football Week

Where: Porritt Stadium Fields

When: Monday 5th September

Time: 4-5.30pm

Cost: Free

Who: Girls aged 6-12 years of all abilities



ASB

www.nzfootball.co.nz

