

# THE FRIDAY FLIER

**KOTAHITANGA  
WAIKATO WALDORF SCHOOL, KINDERGARTENS AND PLAYCIRCLES**



No: 29  
Date: 30 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

3 OCTOBER	CLASS PHOTOS	9.00AM
7 OCTOBER	LAST DAY OF TERM 3	
25 OCTOBER	FIRST DAY OF TERM 4	

## REMINDER

- 📷 **Class photos - Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October**  
Please return your envelope with the class photos order.  
If you have lost your order form please pick one up from the office.



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*Dear Community, Kia ora te whanau!*

*On Tuesday this week I had the great pleasure and joy of meeting the 2012 Class 1 parents in our Class 1 room. It was one of these moments where I just feel so privileged and grateful to have this job!*

*I am utterly delighted and excited that we will start a class 1 with 24 children next year. This will be our biggest class 1 ever and will hopefully start a trend! There is good mix of new parents and "old" Steiner parents - who already have children in the school. We look forward to welcome the new families into our school community.*

*Please find a letter at the back of the flier which updates you on all that is happening with National Standards so far. The letter is from the team that is negotiating with the Ministry of Education on behalf of the Federation of Waldorf Schools and was sent out to all schools to share with the parents and community.*

*Enjoy a lovely spring weekend!*

*Aroha nui  
Marianne Inkrot*



Waldorf Dragons won first place in the final of the School Inline Hockey League, beating Berkley School 5:1. **Congratulations to the Dragons, Zion, Nimai, Wynn, Jeremy, Billy and Kieran.** This is the second term in a row Dragons have finished at the top of the competition. There were some beautiful goals on the night!



## **Report on High School Survey – September 2011**

Following the survey of the community about interest in a High School the results are as follows:

36/50 of school families responded to the survey. The feedback was generally supportive of the vision to have the school become a full school including High School – 24 in favour, 2 not in favour, 10 undecided.

The Board of Trustees and Proprietors Trust met to develop the strategic plan for the school for the next 5 years and as part of that planning discussed the implications of the development of a High School.

The outcome of that discussion is:

1. That there was not a strong enough indication from the families of the upper classes that the commitment would be there for them to be the pioneering classes of the High School.
2. That the expectations of families to have adequate provision of resources in the High School were unlikely to be able to be met by 2013.
3. There was still a great deal of development required to complete the primary/intermediate school to a level that would meet the needs of the current children and enable a strong foundation from which a high school could develop.
4. Class sizes in the upper classes are too small to sustain development of the High School.

We would like to acknowledge the desire for parents to have Waldorf education for their children up to High School and we will continue to work towards achieving this dream.

It was considered that there was the possibility of extending the primary school to Class 8 to complete the primary school curriculum as it was intended by Rudolf Steiner. We will be arranging a meeting with the families of the upper classes to discuss this option further.

*The Board of Trustees*

## 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.

**KOWHAI CHILDCARE CENTRE**  
68 Te Manatu Drive, Rototuna (off Thomas Road)

Saturday 1st October  
9am-12pm

# Spring Fair

- Car Boot & Trailer Sale (garage sale)
- Craft Stall
- Cake & Preserves Stalls
- Face Painting & Fishing for kids
- Coffee/Hot Chocolate and Lemonade
- Hot Soup & buns
- Seedlings Stall
- Sausage Sizzle
- Spring Animals

Contact us on 852 5025 if you would like to book a space in the boot and trailer sale or for more info.

[www.kowhaichildcare.co.nz](http://www.kowhaichildcare.co.nz)

### Kindergarten Teacher

#### DUNEDIN RUDOLF STEINER KINDERGARTEN

The Dunedin Rudolf Steiner Kindergarten is a well established Steiner kindergarten for children aged 3 to 6 years of age. We have a vacancy for a full time teacher, ECE qualified and with Steiner training, to start in Term 1 2012.

The three kindergartens are set on two sites - two in the tranquil grounds of the Dunedin Rudolf Steiner School at Maia and one in Pine Hill. There are three kindergarten rooms, each with two teachers. We seek a teacher to lead one of these rooms.

Applications close 4.00 pm, Friday 28 October 2011.

An application form and job description can be downloaded from the School's website [www.dunedin.steiner.school.nz](http://www.dunedin.steiner.school.nz) or is available by request from the office at

[office@dunedin.steiner.school.nz](mailto:office@dunedin.steiner.school.nz) Telephone: 03 471 2163

Our Daughter in class 4 is keen on **learning the drums**. As drum kits are quite expensive we would prefer to borrow (or rent) a kit for a term or two to be sure she is dedicated. If anyone has a drum kit we could borrow please contact Paula or Terry Playle on 849 5364.

## NATIONAL STANDARDS AND THE SPECIAL CHARACTER OF STATE INTEGRATED RUDOLF STEINER SCHOOLS

### National Standards

- You may be aware of the Government's policy to introduce National Standards. The Government argues that this will increase the quality of education by improving reading, writing and maths skills.
- All State and State integrated English medium schools with year 1-8 students are required to use National Standards within the New Zealand Curriculum from February 2010.
- The National Administration Guidelines (NAGs) set out the Government's administrative requirements for boards of trustees in relation to the National Standards. NAG 2A (published in the *Gazette* on 29 October 2009) requires the board of trustees, with the principal and teaching staff, to use National Standards to:

(a) report to students and their parents on the students' progress and achievement in relation to National Standards. Reporting to parents in plain language in writing must be at least twice a year;

(b) report school-level data in the board's annual report on National Standards under three headings:

(i) school strengths and identified areas for improvement;

(ii) the basis for identifying areas for improvement; and

(iii) planned actions for lifting achievement.

(c) report in the board's annual report on

- (i) the numbers and proportions of students at, above, below or well below the standards, including by Maori, Pasifika and by gender (where this does not breach an individual's privacy); and*
- (ii) how students are progressing against the standards as well as how they are achieving.*

### **The special character of Steiner schools**

- As you know, Steiner education is special because it is holistic. It strives to provide for the rounded and harmonious development of the whole human being, balancing the development of cognitive faculties with the cultivation of artistic and imaginative capacities.
- The concern of Steiner Schools is to ensure that our special character is not compromised by the implementation of National Standards. According to the legislation and the agreements under which the schools were integrated into the State system of education, this is both our right and obligation.

### **Private Schools Conditional Integration Act 1975**

- State integrated schools like ours are governed by the Private Schools Conditional Integration Act 1975 ("the Act"). Under the Act, an integrated school is part of the State system of education and subject to the Education Act 1989, including section 60A, which enables the making of National Standards.
- However, section 3 of the Act provides that integrated schools have the right to reflect their special character through their teaching and the conduct of their education. The legislation goes on to provide that "[i]ntegration shall not jeopardise the special character of an integrated school."
- The pre-eminence given to section 3 of the Act makes clear that the provisions of the Education Act and related enactments should wherever possible be interpreted and applied in a manner that both recognises and protects an integrated school's special character.

### **International Obligations**

- The Act also reflects the right of a parent to choose his or her child's education set out in article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and article 13 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.
- Article 13(3) of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights provides that states shall have "respect for the liberty of parents...to choose schools, other than those established by the public authorities, which conform to such minimum educational standards...to ensure the religious and moral education of their children in conformity with their own convictions".
- New Zealand ratified the Covenant on 28 December 1978 and it is well established that legislation should be read in a way that is consistent with New Zealand's international obligations.

### **Flexible implementation of National Standards**

- Because retaining our special character is critical to the future of Steiner Schools in New Zealand, we are engaging with the Government to devise an enduring solution that makes reasonable accommodation of that character in our implementation of National Standards.
- The Minister of Education has already acknowledged that there is flexibility in how National Standards are implemented and we are hopeful of reaching an agreement that reflects the mutual objectives of Steiner Schools and the Government.
- We also hope that we will enjoy your support as we embark on this process.