

# THE FRIDAY FLIER

(Published fortnightly)

KOTAHITANGA

Waikato Waldorf School, Kindergartens and Play Circle



No: 07

10 May 2024

## Kia Ora Whanau

Welcome to Term 2, everyone has made a positive start back and there are lots of interesting studies going on in classrooms. Soccer continues to be very popular at lunchtimes with large mixed age teams playing together, and Lorna's and Olivia's Games Club is also a very popular space for students.

I'm currently in Taupo at the Waldorf Principals Fellowship annual hui. It's pretty chilly down here, and we have a packed agenda with many items to discuss, in particular the latest Ministry of Education requirements of schools and how this fits or not with our Waldorf curriculum. As a new Principal, I have been studying the curriculum for the past term and therefore this hui is a very beneficial time to connect with the other Principals to discuss our perspective.

Below are some images from Dornach and a summary of Waldorf educators' perspectives from around the world as they described the contexts within which they worked. It was fascinating to hear the varied stories. Please feel welcome to come and chat with me if you would like to know more about the conference.



## International Perspectives voiced at the Conference:

**Many countries** are experiencing a decline in enrolments and are struggling to find ways to market Waldorf education. A number of speakers expressed that this was because anthroposophy was viewed negatively in their countries, and that Waldorf education was seen as monocultural in nature.

**In France** the situation was described as 'persecution of special character' due to the secular nature of schools becoming an extremist right wing view and Waldorf schools are under scrutiny to conform. In England the issue was described as lack of interest in Waldorf education resulting in closure of schools.

**From the UK**, [Paul Hougham - Chief Executive](#) spoke about shifting the focus in his organisation to not trying to open another school currently, but improving teacher education before they embark on opening a school again.

**A South African** Waldorf teacher educator explained their focus on indigenous creativity in their teacher education programmes and described the huge success this was having on student engagement in their Waldorf schools. Waldorf education combined with cultural wisdom is the focus of teacher education in South Africa - it is a deep dive, and that is a verb not a saying.

Factors contributing to the success of their schools:

Holistic Approach / Steiner developmental stages / Practical activities / Student connections with teachers / Nature orientated / Freedom of thought / Spiritual awareness / Indigenous stories.

The key theme - Humanity/consciousness/understanding has developed globally - our focus should not just be on European history.

**Brazilian speaker** - Education of teachers, of students, must be done with cultural reflection and response - we must decolonise thoughts, words, actions, policies to create positive multiculturalism. Knowledge and love cannot function without each other.

**Finnish speaker** - How do we teach teachers to teach history without using a hierarchical western perspective? Teach the esoteric dimension and how that relates to forming concepts about teaching, is mythical thinking actually early science? Need to delve into cultural layers, and not confuse mythical thinking with the science of today. History teaching should be a way to promote cultural respect and reduce western domination.

**Taiwanese speaker** - What does it mean to be a Waldorf teacher in the 2020s? Most importantly - find a way to co-exist and integrate local cultures, taking care not to let European culture dominate the Waldorf curriculum. Faiths can co-exist and integrate, striving to learn and grow into more integrated humans. Dialogues must contain authentic listening to one another's stories - striving for the interconnectedness of cultures, nature, human beings.

**Waldorf teacher trainee from the Netherlands** said we live in a fast paced digital world, yet the metaphors we use are not unique to European cultures, they exist in all cultures, as Steiner himself said.

**Many speakers** spoke about the need to remain relevant to this generation within teacher education - we cannot ignore technology or the way in which this generation expects equality in relationships as they learn. We must decolonise thoughts, words, actions, policies, to create a positive culturally aware community.

There are lots of exciting events coming up this term, as detailed below, and I look forward to catching up with you at these.

Have an enjoyable autumn weekend.

Jane Keir

## UPCOMING EVENTS / TERM 2 2024

Wednesday 15 May	Whānau Group, Staffroom 7pm	Further dates and
Friday 31 May	Teacher Only Day—school closed	Parent Interview times
Wednesday 26 June	Winter Festival	to be confirmed.
Friday 28 June	Matariki—school closed	

### Waldorf Season Table — Winter

Come and join us as we welcome the season of winter.

Over the course of the morning we shall create our tree and winter scene for our home nature table. Bring foraged twigs and bark and a flat piece of wood as the base for the tree.

*No crafting/sewing experience required*

Please bring a plate of food to share.

Cost: \$25

When: Saturday 25th May from 09.30am -12.30ish

Where: Rimu cottage-68 Te Manatu Drive-(opposite Kowhai childcare)

To reserve your spot contact Maree 021 150 9433 or Mieke [amdreamstitch@gmail.com](mailto:amdreamstitch@gmail.com)



### Waikato Waldorf Costume Department needs 'Mending Fairies'!

We support classes with costumes for their wonderful plays and have collected an impressive selection of costumes over the years. From time to time costumes need repairs and we are calling for 'Mending Fairies'!! We have a variety of mending jobs, for example hand and machine re-stitching, patching or mending holes and replacing elastic. There will be a mending box in the lobby of the hall for anyone to take a costume to mend.

Many thanks in advance!

## World Vision Leadership Conference

Six incredibly lucky Class Six and Sevens were selected to attend the World Vision Leadership Conference at The Trusts Arena, Auckland, on Monday 6th May. This one-day event engaged our students in social justice issues, motivated them through inspiring speakers, equipped them with tools to create change and empowered them to put their leadership skills into action in practical ways. A great day, filled with lots of information on how to be a great leader here in Aotearoa!



## Class Six Fundraiser

The Class Six students have been working incredibly hard this week to fundraise for their end of year camp. This has tied beautifully into our Business Maths unit, where the children have been learning how to apply their new knowledge into real-life scenarios. We started on Wednesday with a soup sale, and car wash, and continued the week with soup on Thursday and another round of car washing on Friday! It's been a very busy week for us, but an equally successful one! Thank you to everyone that has supported us in this :)

*Kat (Class Six teacher)*

## Foyer Art Exhibition

If you get the opportunity to pop in and see the display of artwork in the office foyer.

Last term Class 8 did an art study of Albrecht Duerer's work 'Melancholia'. As students work on this piece they are introduced to the elements of art and explore how these are used in artwork. There is also a selection of Class 9 artworks. Last term, they did a study of light and shadow in interior spaces. This included caves, stairwells and dungeons.

In term one class 9 used harakeke (flax) to weave putiputi (flowers) and small kete (two corner basket) and kono (four corner basket).



## High School Library

A big thankyou to the Proprietors Trust, Paul, students and everyone else who contributed to make this room become a reality. This room now doubles as a classroom, study room, and lunchtime quiet games room. More books are on the horizon so as the HS grows so does the amount of books!

Special thanks to Jo for spending many hours sorting, filing and arranging both rooms and our library books.



### ***Request:***

***We have a call out for a parent/caregiver to provide pumpkin carving demonstration with classes in the Lower School in preparation for our Matariki Winter Festival.***

## Art in Waldorf- for long term health

The liberal use of colour that infuses all aspects of a Waldorf Education is not only delightful, it's deliberate. Beautiful main lesson book entries created by students, beginning in class one increase in complexity throughout the years. Colour, form, technique, and meaning converge to animate all subject matter from math to science, foreign language and language studies. What is the value of this approach?

*"The important thing is to arouse in children a real feeling for life, and colour and form have the power to lead right into life...these details are essential to the vitality of the work."* -- Rudolf Steiner, 1922, the Spiritual Ground of Higher Education

## SHAPING AND PERCEIVING

Artistic endeavours sharpen two very important human skills: the ability to shape, or see, and the ability to perceive, or distinguish. When practiced over time using diverse techniques across a variety of subjects, something very special emerges: the ability to shape and perceive new ways of looking at the world.

As the Waldorf student develops, connections continue to be made on ever deepening levels and the creative process is strengthened, resulting in students who are able to make connections across a variety of subjects. This skill is highly valued in our culture and is known as interdisciplinary thinking. It's a truly holistic way of looking at the world and contributing effectively.

*I am always doing things I can't do, that's how I get to do them.* -- Pablo Picasso

The idea that a child cannot succeed in Waldorf Education unless he or she has excellent artistic skills is a myth to be dispelled. One child may draw endlessly in the early grades while another may be adept at origami or painting, or lose themselves in handwork. Skills and interests "come in" at different times and under different circumstances. The creative process is sometimes mysterious and always transformative, no matter when and how it reveals itself. There is no wrong way to express oneself artistically. We must teach our children to create without judgement, only then will they be free from inner constraints and available to capture a world in perpetual motion. Therein lies the magic and power of art.

Maree Smith RN,  
Anthroposophical Nurse  
021 150 9433



## 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.



### COMPOST MAKING WORKSHOP

Practical demonstration of making a home compost bio-reactor

- how to create a biologically rich compost
- compost ingredients and ratios
- small scale and large compost methods
- building a bio-reactor compost heap

on Sunday 26 May, 9am till 1.30pm

at Earth Stewards Certified Organic Farm,  
66 Te Manatu Drive

Cost: \$30 for pre-sales

\$35 when paying at the gate.

Email: [hello@earthstewards.nz](mailto:hello@earthstewards.nz) for booking and enquires



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# GIRL POWA

*Adventure is calling*

# ADVENTURE DAY

Sunday 19th May 10am -4pm

## ARCHERY - KAYAK - HIGH ROPES

📍 Lake Karapiro

**\$100 ticket**  
admits 1 adult  
and 1 teen

**Tū Manawa**  
Active Aotearoa



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TARUNA  
COLLEGE

Connect, Nourish, Sustain

## Art of Well-Being

Staying Upright, Keeping Heart

Perhaps now more than ever, our sense of 'well-being' is being deeply challenged. We need fresh tools and understandings that develop skills, strategies and capacities for inner certainty and resilience. Here at Taruna we define well-being as a sense of being fully available to life – drawing from the well-spring that lets us best connect and sustain the relationships we have with ourselves, as well as with the people and the work that matter to us. A theme of the **Art of Well-Being** is *'staying upright, keeping heart'* - wakeful approaches that actively bring us back to centre when we are pushed or pulled from being upright. In the programme we open up simple daily practices such as journaling, observation, the use of poetry, verses and meditations, engaging in art, doing eurythmy, appreciating art, having good conversations, and practising simple home nursing treatments. All develop our heart connection, our artfulness and our discernment.

**The Art of Well-Being** invites you to three five-day seminars over 2024. The programme is gentle yet enquiring, focusing on three themes that renew our well-being:

**Art** - recognising art as the language of the soul we progressively work with colour, form, line, movement and language to deepen our ways of connecting and expressing our rich world within.

**Life-story work** - discovering the meaning and potential in our biographies, as we explore windows into our own life stories and the rich tapestries that each of our lives have woven.

**Contemporary, holistic thinking** - which explores the world and our humanity in fresh ways. In particular we draw on contemporary applications of the work and understandings of Anthroposophy inspired by Rudolf Steiner.

**The Art of Well-Being dates for 2024:**

**Seminar One:** Monday 27 May - Friday 31 May

**Seminar Two:** Monday 5 August - Friday 9 August

**Seminar Three:** Monday 4 November - Friday 8 November

The **Art of Well-Being** is designed for:

- busy professionals looking for renewal and nourishment so they can be creative in the workplace
- those connected to Steiner/ Waldorf schools looking to renew and deepen their connection
- those working in education or health needing fresh tools and approaches to revitalise their work
- those at a crossroads who need time to take stock and consider the road ahead
- those who wish to honour the dimension of spirit in their lives.

**Cost:** \$1100 per seminar. All three seminars are payable on enrolment at least one month prior to Seminar One. **Come with a friend and get a 5% discount.** *Minimum numbers are required for the course to begin.*

### Art of Well-Being Team:

Lauren Hudson, Rosie Simpson, and  
Deb Bednarek.

*The Crystal Bridge loan fund makes interest free loans available to Taruna students.*

*For more information - see our website*

[www.taruna.ac.nz](http://www.taruna.ac.nz)

*or inquire in person on 06 8777174 or [info@taruna.ac.nz](mailto:info@taruna.ac.nz)*