



The Shepherds Play

On Sunday the 16 December at 7:00 pm (the last Sunday of this school term and just over a week before Christmas), the teachers will be performing the Shepherds Play. This is the play that is always on the calendar and is always performed on that Sunday for the community and then on the following Wednesday for the Lower School; just as it is always, or nearly always, performed all around the world by Steiner Schools and anthroposophical communities at this time of year.

It is a wonderful thing to imagine these cheerful, reverent, light filled little performances occurring all across the globe, like tiny stars in the darkness. Each one the same. Each one surely performed with the same joy and sense of "specialness" that it is performed with here.



A comment across the dinner table the other night was about it being "...always the same, except for the Shepherds when they eat dinner..." well, yes, the plays are always the same, and that is part of the beauty of them. They are special, very special. (More on that next week).

To me the Shepherds Play means many things. First and foremost of course, is that it is the end of the year, the busiest moment of a busy year. It means we learn the lines while also writing reports for every student, planning the last lessons, planning camps, cleaning classrooms and the list goes on. But every Thursday after staff meeting a little assembled bunch stamp and sing and act their way around the hall with the help of a worthy piano player.

Another part I always notice is how nice it is to arrive at school on the last day and if you are in the play, instead of going to class you go downstairs and put on a costume and make up and crack jokes about beards and then say a little blessing, while above, the hall busily fills with stamping feet and then there is silence and you know it's time. It is all you have to think about that day except coffee break and special good byes with the class after morning tea. It's a perfect finish.

However, my most favourite part of all, of being in the play, the bit that makes me come back every year to fool around in the hall; more than all the other lovely bits, more than all the camaraderie with colleagues, more than all the lusty songs and bright lights, is the moment in the middle of the play. The most special moment. The moment that the play is really all about. The bit in the middle when He is born...

The piano plays softly and Mary's arms go up in the air to receive the Child and the Angel's star comes quietly down and it is all, so significant, so peaceful and so very, very beautiful. Yet I have never seen it. I have never watched that part because my head is always down in reverence as a Shepherd or my back is turned as Joseph. Only you as the audience get to share that very special part. I sometimes have watched the shadow of Mary's arms, and that fills with me the deepest joy and gladness. And every year it feels just as special.

I would never get tired of that moment no matter if I did that play for two thousand years.

I hope you can come and share that moment with us. It really is special. Thanks.

Johnny Ryan Director for this year.

Mark Your Calendar

November 29	7:00 pm	Liaison Parent Evening - Library
November 30	8:30 am - 9:00 am start	Rudolf Steiner's Threefold Social Order - David Urieli - TPG
December 4	12:30 pm - 1:30 pm	French Conversation Group Lunch - past and present students
December 7	11:00 am	Class 12 Cushion Concert
December 12	6:30 pm	Class One 2019 - Parent Evening
December 16	7:00 pm	"The Shepherds Play" - Eurythmy Hall - For The Community
December 18	7:00 pm	Carol Evening - School Hall

SCHOOL NOTICES

Community Meeting

A healthy social life is found only when, in the mirror of each soul, the whole community finds its reflection, and when, in the whole community, the virtue of each one is living.

Rudolf Steiner

Last Wednesday night at our inaugural community meeting I shared our focus for this year which has been on consolidating Taikura's development and refocusing our attention on our Special Character. I was supported in giving this picture by the dedicated volunteers who serve on our Board of Trustees and Proprietors Trust.

In the last ten years Taikura has been through a great deal of change and development across a range of areas. Our physical site has grown and developed, management structures have evolved, cultural responsibilities have been embedded and the assessment of students has been influenced by the NZ Certificate of Steiner Education in the High School and Learning Steps in the Lower School.

As an integrated school we receive funding from the government for our staffing and operating costs. The tension we face is that this funding is to ensure we meet the standard of a state school, not a Steiner School with a strong Special Character. The funding is not sufficient to cover the wide variety of activities which are essential to our Steiner Curriculum:

- Lower School art curriculum - wet on wet painting and form drawing
- Handwork from Class 1 to Class 11
- Woodwork from Class 5 to Class 11
- Music in the Lower School – the pentatonic flute, recorder and violin.
- Eurythmy from Class 1 to Class 12
- Bothmar Gymnastics from Class 3 to Class 12
- Camps from Class 3 to Class 12, some with more than one camp a year
- Plays – Class 1 to Class 12
- Class 8 and Class 12 Projects
- Our festivals
- Extra Lesson and the Listening Programme
- Anthroposophical nurses and doctor visits
- A wide range of practical and theoretical Main Lessons right across the school in areas far exceeding the NZ Curriculum requirements

Each year we ask our staff to submit a budget request form which includes what they need for the following year and what they would like to have. These budget requests are focused on improving the delivery of the curriculum in the teacher's particular area, either to provide greater variety of activities, greater accessibility for all children or a more current experience. During the last five years that I have been involved in the budget process we have had to immediately dismiss all of the items on the nice to have lists at the beginning of the budget process. We then go through what each staff member needs, evaluating each request and reducing where we can. In the last few years we have then had to still go and cut a blanket 10% across all areas to stay within our budget. The operational funding which we receive from the government does not provide us with sufficient resources to deliver our valuable Steiner curriculum, we are dependent on our Special Character donations for this. When we are only receiving half the amount of donations which we asking for it severely limits what we are able to provide for our students.

This picture of just scraping through is not new but it is also not sustainable. The edges of our Special Character are eroding and while we work incredibly hard each year to continue to provide the essential elements of Steiner education our ability to do that is unfortunately being limited by our lack of donations.

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SCHOOL NOTICES

Community Meeting Continued.....

Our financial situation was just part of the picture shared with the community. Next year we celebrate 100 years of Steiner education around the world and this is very much a celebration about community. Our schools exist because of an impulse, a wish in a community and their sustainability is very much connected to that original impulse. At Taikura we are fortunate to have some wonderful initiatives which have been driven by our community. The outstanding effort which goes into the Fete each year, both on the day and during the months of preparation. The fundraising which has arisen around the H3 initiative enabling students to access the curriculum by assisting with the cost of specific therapies which supports not just individual children but whole classes. Our He Reo Ora Strategy is another example of community spirit but also consolidates the contributions of many who have laid the cultural foundations at Taikura over the years.

As part of our picture of consolidating this year we have spent time reviewing our school site and an overwhelming observation has been that it feels as if the heart of the school is not in the right place. To that end we are going to be undertaking a move during the next two weeks which will see the administration block relocate from its current position on the ground floor of Taikura House back to the building which was organically designed for it next to the Nelson Street front gate. The flow on from this will be that the Music room moves to the ground floor of Edwin Ayre, Class Six will return to the Katherine Laing building and the ground floor of Taikura House will now provide a home to our Extra Lessons, Listening programme, Anthroposophical nurses, Lower School SENCO and a Teacher Aide space. There will no longer be an entrance beside Taikura House and all students, parents and visitors will be asked to enter at the front gate.

We have a lot to look forward to in the next few weeks and I hope to see you all at the Class 12 Cushion concert, Class 8 projects, community performance of the Shepherds play and the Carol Evening.

Pippa Caccioppoli
Principal

Proprietors Trust News

Our last meeting of the year was held on Monday 19 November. We discussed the Community Meeting, and were heartened by the turn out last Wednesday. It was an opportunity to share some very important topics that are sometimes best shared in person rather than in print or email. This year, together with the Board of Trustees, we have been working on an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) between our two groups, and we have made positive progress. This is a legal document which has been rigorously reviewed, as well as checked by legal support. We are very pleased that this document has now been signed. The MOU gives us very clear guidelines around roles and responsibilities moving forward. During the last six months there have also been numerous sub-committees formed, such as finance, health and safety, property, Special Character and communications. These generally have members from the BoT and the PT, as well as school management, thereby ensuring all voices and points of view are represented, and are working together constructively. Our kindergartens are a very important part of our work as a Trust, and there are many factors to be considered when making decisions, pedagogical as well as financial. We are currently considering long and short term plans for the kindergartens and are carefully looking into all areas.

We feel very positive about the management decision to move the office back to its purpose built space by the school entrance on Nelson Street, also giving the teachers back their larger staff room space in the current music room. Community feedback on this decision has been very positive and we see that we are moving forward in good heart, ready to work hard to tackle all that lies ahead in 2019.

Suzan Bart
Secretary

Rudolf Steiner School Hastings Trust

Apologise for the oversight in not mentioning John Hudson as a Trustee on Rudolf Steiner School Trust.

Fête Weleda Raffle Winner

Congratulations to Adrienne Burt our hard-working receptionist, who won the Weleda raffle. Thank you very much to Weleda for their generous donation and support.

SCHOOL NOTICES

Donation Forms

We have only received 46% of our Special Character donation forms back for the school as of Tuesday 27 November. We are extending this to Monday 3 December. Those families who have not returned forms after this date will be contacted. Please return forms to the office ASAP.

Taikura Parents Group

All School Community Welcome - Including those on the waiting list.

Please come along and enjoy the opportunity to meet other parents and staff from our school in a relaxed and supportive environment. All meetings are baby/toddler friendly and you are welcome to bring them along and come and go as you need. Gatherings are held at the Hastings Taikura Kindergarten community space. Guest speakers begin at 9:00am with tea and coffee available from 8:45am. After more than a decade of coordinating the Parents Group Filipa is needing to 'retire'. If you would be interested in considering this rewarding community role next year please contact Filipa 0274513445.

Our next meetings:

- November 30: An introduction to Rudolf Steiner's Threefold Social Order, presented by High School Teacher David Urieli. In 1919 Germany was in turmoil after the first world war and the punitive reparations had bankrupted the country. In November there was a bloodless revolution removing the monarchy and making a new government but there was much discussion about what form the government should take. Steiner was also asked by the very active Stuttgart group what form such a government should take. His suggestions are generally referred to as the Threefold Social Order.

David Urieli will be running about 6 talks/workshops in the Anthroposophical Centre starting next February on the Threefold Social Order and the parents group meeting will be a sort of overview for anyone unfamiliar with this who wants a general introduction to it.

Any offerings, suggestions or questions please contact: Filipa Hope 027 4513445 filipahope@gmail.com

Instrument Hire - Return

At the end of each year I ask for all hired instruments to be returned for checking so maintenance can take place where necessary. As we will be moving the Instrument Storage room in December I would like to do this earlier this year. Could you please **either return your instrument this week, with your name, class and a note saying if you'd like to retain the instrument over the Christmas holidays, or contact me by email at: zahira.rickard@taikura.school.nz with your phone number to make other arrangements.**

I know many of you continue to have lessons into December and need instruments for the various celebrations at the end of the year so I would like to have the checking done before this to make it a seamless process for everyone.

Thanks for attending to this.
Regards Zahira



He pito kōrero!

“Kua rongō kōrero koe...? Did you hear ...?”

That there are family language planning wānanga/workshops run throughout New Zealand. Here is the link to Kura whakarauora: <http://www.kurawhakarauora>

Kīwaha o te wikiKīwaha of the week!

*Wāre (Wee are deh)
Exclamation of surprise*

Hemi: I won the long jump at the Olympics camp last week!
Rangi: Wāre!

He pito kōrero is a space dedicated to celebrating and promoting Te Reo me ōna Tikanga Māori.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Art Classes

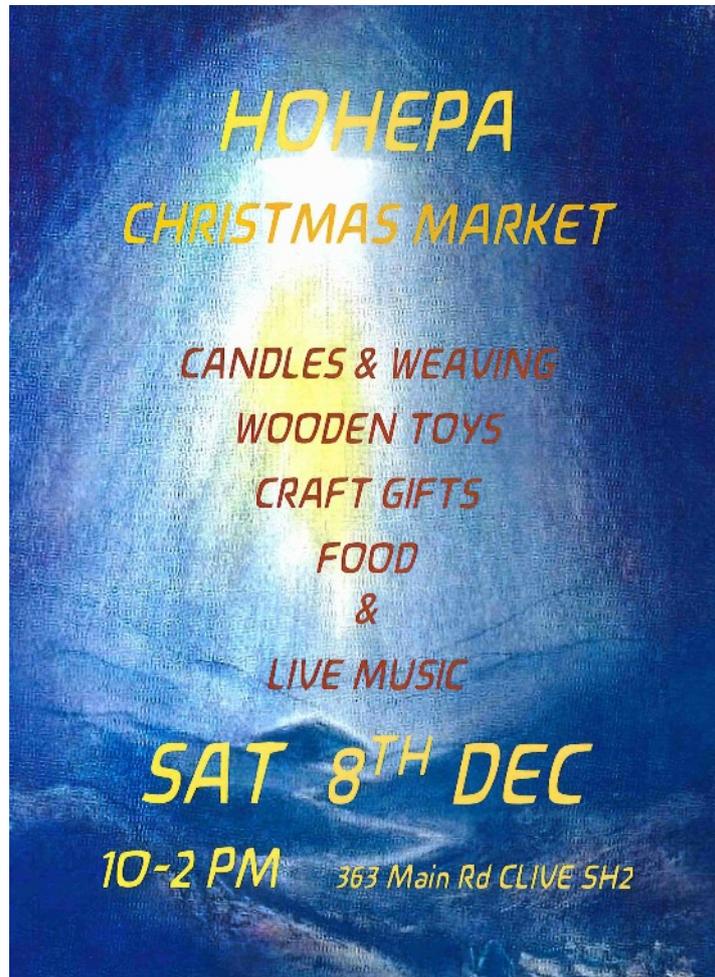
Teenagers art class: Tuesdays 3:30-4:45 pm

Children`s art class: Thursdays 3:00-4:10 pm

Art therapy, by appointment: Tuesdays and Thursdays.

To enroll contact Eva Steinmetz-Urieli: evaurieli@gmail.com 8786028 or 02102771201

Hohepa Christmas Market



The Healing Madonna's

A presentation of Madonna paintings by Raphael and sculptures by Michelangelo and Donatello, accompanied by lyre music followed by artistic activity in drawing, painting or pastels. No artistic experience necessary.

Dates: **Thursday 13 and Friday 14 December 2018**

Time: **9:15 am - 12:00 pm**

Cost: **\$25 per session or \$45 for 2 sessions**

Venue: Margaret-Mary Farr Studio/Gallery - 100 Eastbourne Street Hastings

Phone or text/email to enrol: Margaret-Mary on 0272484193 / manawatustudio@gmail.com



House For Rent

Small three bedroom house available from Wednesday 19 December through to Wednesday 23 January. In Akina, Hastings. Rent negotiable.

Please contact Tracy on 0272627014

Taikura Rudolf Steiner School Website

If you would prefer to read the Grapevine on-line via the school website please go to www.taikura.school.nz Under the heading: Key Dates, News & Events select Newsletters from the drop down box, the latest copies of the Grapevine will be on the left side of the page. Click on the date you wish to read.