



## The Grapevine

### Second Advent

After our second Advent assembly we are seeing in our students earnest feelings of wonder, patience and warmth, something difficult to achieve in between camps, school activities and busy households. The children enter the Advent assemblies in silence, to the sound of classical music, hear verses, sing carols and most of all they listen to stories that relate to this “waiting” for a something that will become.

In our southern hemisphere we have a harder task than our northern counterparts. Their diminished sunlight naturally invites them to become introspective, enabling the soul to search for that most inward light of hope and new beginnings.

The heat and bright sunlight that we experience, mixed with the wild winds of our late spring, make us restless and we may just miss this important “becoming” time. If we take the time of Advent to prepare the children, with stories, with moving music and together make house and tree decorations and gifts, if we think of Advent more as festivity in itself and not just as a highway to Santa, then possibly we may have an endearing Christmas festivity which is less likely to be mixed up with consumerism.

Let’s allow the Advent to be a road of longing for something worthy. Let us help the children to experience the joy for the festive season.

Sandra Jordan  
Class 5 Teacher



### Mark Your Calendar

December 13	8:45 am - 9:00 Start	David Urieli - Taikura High School Teacher - “Life After Death”
December 13	12:30 pm	Classes 8 and 9 Finish for the Year
<b>December 15</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Shepherds Play - School Hall - Community Performance</b>
December 17	7:00 pm	Carol Evening - Held in the School Gym
December 18	12:30 pm	Classes 1-7 Finish for the Year

# SCHOOL NOTICES



## He pito kōrero!

E rere kau mai te awa nui nei  
mai i te kāhui maunga ki Tangaroa.  
Ko au te awa  
ko te awa ko au.

*The river flows  
from the mountains to the sea.  
I am the river  
and the river is me.*

Last week, I was fortunate to go with Class 7 down the Whanganui River. The origins of the above whakatauaikī (proverb) is said to be from the people of the Whanganui River. What an experience; the river, the bush, te kōrihi a ngā manu – the morning birdsong and the environment was food for the soul. An intense four days of paddling via Canadian canoes down the awa (river); two people per waka (canoe), with everything we possibly needed for the week's trip. I was reminded how fortunate we are to be living on a whenua, or land, that still holds its natural beauty; abundant with history and stories of the local hapū and iwi – subtribes and nations of people that have lived and continue to do so on the awa.

This trip allowed me to contemplate our journey over the year with Te Reo me ōna Tikanga Māori (Māori language and protocols), as we continue to weave te ao Māori – the Māori worldview – into the life of Taikura. These were just some of those threads seen this year; the all-staff noho marae at the beginning of the year, more te reo Māori being heard in classrooms and around the school, He Reo Puāwai (the Te Reo Māori Curriculum Guidelines for Waldorf Schools in Aotearoa) being embedded in classroom teaching, the celebration of Matariki and the te reo Māori stories as part of the Stories by Starlight event, the unveiling and blessing of the Waharoa – the entranceway into the Whare gardens, the performance of the Te Reo Māori play Te Kuia me te Pūngāwerewere, the celebration of Te Wiki o te Reo Māori (Māori Language Week), He Pito Kōrero (our weekly column in our Grapevine), participating in the Kahungunu Primary School Kapa Haka Festival, amongst other aspects of te ao Māori!

I want to acknowledge all who have been part of this and continue to enliven our school with these taonga (treasures). I wish you all well and hope the holidays are a regathering of energy and restful time with your whānau and friends!

Ngā mihi mahana o Hineraumati ki a tātou katoa!  
Warm greetings of the Summer for us all!

Nā, Troy Gardiner.

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

### School Term Dates For 2020

**KINDERGARTEN:** Thursday 30 January 2020

**TERM 1:** Monday 3 February – Friday 10 April

Whole School Starts -Monday 3 February - Powhiri

Thursday 6 February – Waitangi Day

Friday 10 April- Good Friday - (Easter and Anzac) – Monday 27 April

**TERM 2:** Tuesday 28 April – Friday 3 July

TOD Friday 29 May

Queen's Birthday Monday 1 June

**TERM 3:** Monday 20 July – Friday 25 September

Friday 21 August – Monday 24 August - Mid Term Break

**TERM 4:** Monday 12 October – Wednesday 16 December

Friday 23 October – Monday 26 October - HB Anniversary Day/Labour Day

# SCHOOL NOTICES

## Staffing Updates

### Kindergarten Senior Teacher Appointment

We are delighted to let you know that we have made an appointment in the position of Senior Teacher for our kindergartens.

Danica Hensel Ondrusova will be the Kindergartens' Senior Leader from the beginning of next year, and we are very much looking forward to working with her.

Danica has a deep knowledge and understanding of our Special Character, she is a skilled communicator with previous team leadership experience, and she has a solid foundation in Te Ao Maori.

We feel fortunate to have been able to appoint Danica in this position and feel sure you will all appreciate the contribution she will bring to our tamariki and their kaiako.

## Class One

We are pleased to announce that Brendan Hamilton-Gibbs will be our Class One teacher for 2020.

Brendan has been employed at Taikura since 2004, after completing his Steiner teacher training at Taruna in Havelock North. He initially taught gym, and is still involved in sport across the school, before transitioning into Class teaching in 2010. He is currently rounding off his time as Class 7 teacher. Brendan and his wife Angeline are also school parents, with the youngest of their three children still at Taikura in Class 6.

We are looking forward to officially welcoming Brendan's new class at our Powhiri at the start of next year.

## Governance Notice

The Proprietors Trust and the Board of Trustees have held their last meetings of 2019. It has been another busy year with ERO visits to both the school and the kindergartens, the appointment of a new Kindergarten Senior Teacher, BoT elections and the induction of new members, the transitioning of our school policies onto an online platform (further updates on this to follow in 2020), the ongoing development of our sub-committees, and the change to the structure of our Special Character donations. Our ongoing work includes strategic and annual planning, the signing off of all the camps and EOTC activities, and of course the ongoing responsibility of property and financial management.

High on our list of priorities has been the whare, which has been identified as needing to be replaced, and we will work towards this goal in 2020. We are also working towards streamlining our meetings next year and continuing to work closely together in order to best serve our community and ensure our tamariki have the best possible outcomes.

Thank you all for your ongoing support this year, and please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or concerns.

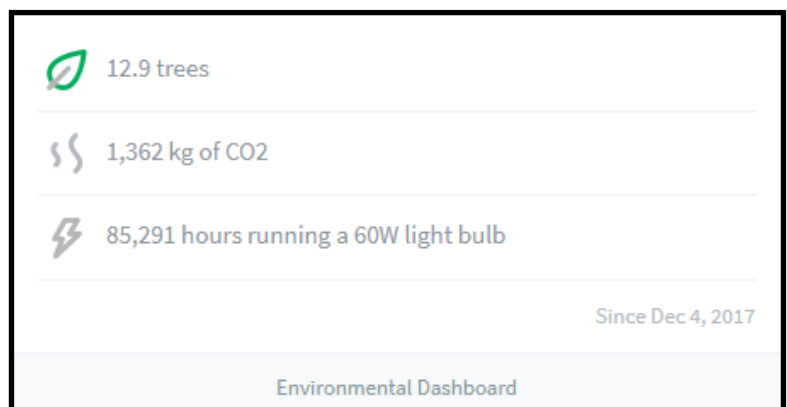
Ngā mihi o te Kirihimete me te Tau Hau  
Greetings for Christmas and the New Year

Suzan Bart  
Board and Trust Secretary

## Grapevine Carbon Footprint

The school is looking at reducing our Carbon Footprint and one of the best ways is by reducing the number of Grapevines we print. Below is a copy of the number of trees that have been used since December 2017. From next year we will email a weekly link to the Grapevine out to all parents, and will not be printing Grapevines for families unless specifically requested **by email**. We know this

is a community that cares about the environment, and we are looking forward to your support in this.



# SCHOOL NOTICES

## ERO Update

ERO visited Taikura at the end of August and spent three days with us. They let us know that they very much enjoyed their visit, and appreciated our school and our aspirations. These are some excerpts from their confirmed report:

"Students have a curriculum that successfully upholds the principles of the Steiner curriculum alongside the key components of the New Zealand curriculum. Te reo Māori is an established part of the integrated curriculum delivery."

"Students learn in an inclusive and caring environment. Positive relationships between students and with teachers encourage a strong sense of belonging. Each student is well known by all staff and this contributes to each student's development as capable and confident learners."

"Parents and whānau are welcomed and involved in school activities as respected and valued partners in learning. There are many opportunities for parents to provide the school with feedback about school priorities."

"Teachers are supported to grow professionally. Culturally responsive practises have been given priority and these are guided by the school's He Reo Ora strategy."

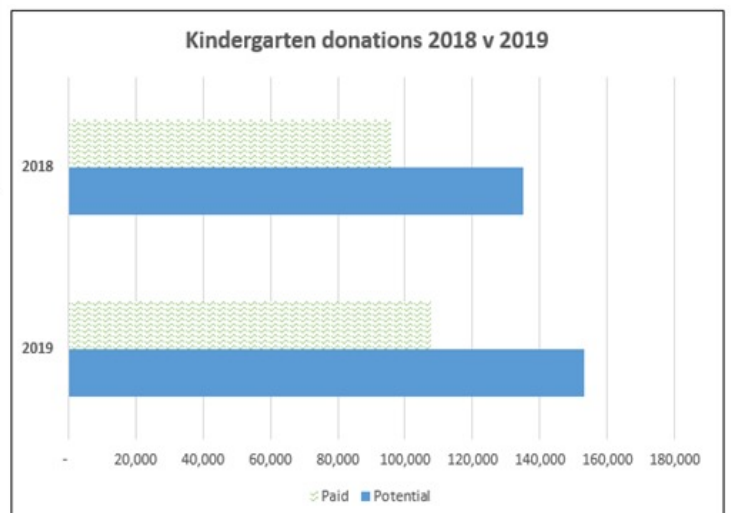
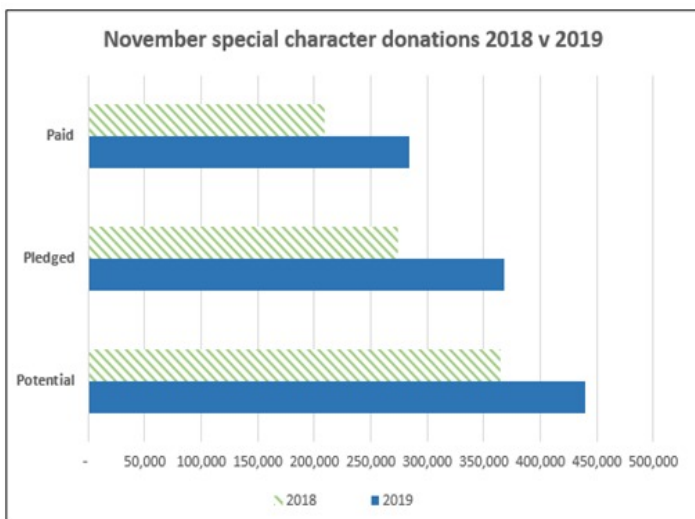
"The small, newly established leadership team works effectively to align systems and make ongoing improvements across the school."

The full report can be found here <https://www.ero.govt.nz/review-reports/taikura-rudolf-steiner-school-11-11-2019/>

## Special Character Donations Update

We understand the postal service is not what it used to be, and at this busy time of year it may take some time to receive mail. To date we have received 68 donations forms of the 228 posted out to families (30%). If you have received your form but not yet returned it to us, please do so by early next week. If you have not received your forms in the mail, please let us know asap.

Below is a graph illustrating your donations for 2019. There was an increase of \$75,000 compared to the same time last year, so thank you! Your contributions make the biggest difference to the health and wellbeing of our school.



# COMMUNITY NOTICES

## Violin/Fiddle Lessons

There are two places for new students in my timetable. The lessons lead to the possibility of playing in a fiddle band. Violin is supplied at no extra charge. \$100.00 per term. Phone Chris Bacchus 027 248 9829

## Reiki Course January 2020

Reiki is a natural energy healing. Reiki level 1 for opening a connection to healing energy is to be held on Saturday 25 January 2020. Level 2 is an advanced two-day course to extend the healing ability with Symbols and Mantras utilizing specific aspects of the energy. Level 3 for the Reiki Master Symbol will follow. For enquiries, Shu. Email: [crystal@naturallifenz.org](mailto:crystal@naturallifenz.org) or text 021 054 9035.

## Crystal 1 Day Workshop

Basic 1-day course for Crystals. What are Crystals? How to choose, cleanse/charge and tune/program/de-program. Experience Crystal work with healing sounds of Crystal Singing Bowls. Pendulum work, Crystal Grid etc. The date, venue and cost: TBC. Please contact Shu for enquiries. Email: [crystal@naturallifenz.org](mailto:crystal@naturallifenz.org) or text 021 054 9035.

## House Sitters Available

Dedicated, retired but active couple of house-sitters looking for a house-sitting job from early January 2020. Please contact us on 021 215 4019 or [starguide@xtra.co.nz](mailto:starguide@xtra.co.nz) (Astrid and Julian).

## HB Christmas Gospel Choir

Every Monday in December all lovers of Gospel Choir meet at 7:00 pm at 36 Riverbend Rd in Napier. Napier Baptist Church offers this project to prepare a special Christmas Eve with Gospel Music, Corals and candlelight. Conductor Stephan Zebe (Berlin) was hired to lead the choir. "We'll sing common traditional songs in modern, groovy styles and Contemporary Gospel Music as well. Singers don't have to be skilled in reading music", Stephan said. "The Night That Christ was Born" will occur on Tuesday 24 December, after sunset at 9:00 pm with lots of music and the Christmas Story.

## Class 3 Fundraiser – Reusable Water Balloons

Great Christmas gift what kid doesn't love water balloons. We are making and selling reusable water balloons pre-order today and will be delivered in time for Christmas. Phone/text Michelle 0273560216.

## Home Based Care

Holiday Care available in Waipawa. Qualified, registered, Steiner Kindergartener. Home based at Rainbow Cottage. From Monday 6 January 2020. Limited spaces. Phone: Bridget 021 242 9008



## Messy Church @ St Matthew's Hastings

**Saturday 14 December 2019**

**4pm – 6pm**

**Family fun for all ages!**

**Come and join us!**

**What?** Fun with crafts, games, Bible stories, a celebration time and a meal together

**Who?** Everyone is welcome. Children under the age of 14 to be accompanied by an adult.

**Where?** In the church hall

Phone: Barbara Person 878 8855, St Matthew's Church, 200 King St South, Hastings [www.stmatts.org.nz](http://www.stmatts.org.nz)