

Love Is Higher Than Opinion

Love is higher than opinion. If people love one another the most varied opinions can be reconciled - thus one of the most important tasks for humankind today and in the future is that we should learn to live together and understand one another. If this human fellowship is not achieved, all talk of development is empty.

Rudolf Steiner

As we wake up each morning we are met with changing updates and advice on how to navigate and manage the COVID-19 virus. Parts of the world face rapid change in daily life and certainly in New Zealand we are starting to experience this too. Many larger businesses have already begun to make changes to how they approach their daily routines, precautions have been put in place for the health of their workers and clientele. At Taikura, when any decision is made we are guided by the Ministries of Health and Education, along with our Governance bodies The Board Of Trustees and Proprietors Trust.

Uncertainty in times of pressure and change can cause people to feel fear and anxiety. Among these happenings our priority is to ensure our students feel safe and secure. Yesterday at school some classes experienced significant disappointments, trips and camps postponed or cancelled and many activities and events modified. For some classes these changes initiated discussion about COVID-19. Teachers work to manage these conversations so students have a healthy, age appropriate understanding about decisions being made both locally and nationally (where appropriate).

Our Class Four teacher Leon Crellin, working to put the spread of the virus and the precautions being taken by school and government into perspective for his students shared the following analogy.

To explain a reasonable precaution I have used the example of walking beside a tall cliff. That of course you could walk close to the edge and you may be safe there but that it would be a reasonable precaution to give yourself some room between you and the cliff to ensure your safety. The measures being prescribed by the government afford us this room, so that our health system stands a better chance of not being overwhelmed.

This creates for the students such a sensible practical picture. "Of course we don't want people to fall off the cliff." - said one child.

Out of the most difficult of challenges can come great opportunities of learning and ultimately gifts of gold. Those moments when initiatives and acts of kindness link communities and humanity together. These acts of loving kindness feed into something bigger than ourselves. True Michaelic deeds bringing heart warmed thought - through action - into our daily lives. These deeds have their own power which transcends the physical, strengthening the mauri of Papatūānuku - Kia kaha, kia maia, kia manawanui!

Perhaps most importantly, we can strive to remember that we are in this together, that we must support our local and global communities, and not be afraid to reflect deeply on the opportunity our vulnerability offers us at this time.

Kelly Sutton
Deputy Principal

SCHOOL NOTICES



He pito kōrero

He mihi hou - The new way of greeting – Kahungunu wave!

As a māmā who has a heightened sense of awareness about the huaketo hou (new virus) sweeping the world, I was grateful and reassured to reach the school gate with my tamariki on Monday and receive a beautiful warm smile, mihi and heartfelt wave in place of the usual morning handshake. The exchange was accompanied by giggles and lightness that set the change in ritual to one of ease and reassurance.

As Māori we live by the ways of our ancestors. There is a very well known and often referenced whakataukī 'Me hoki whakamuri, kia haere whakamua' which translates as "look back to the past in order to move forward". Often during challenging times, we put these words into action and consider what our tīpuna (ancestors) might do in such a situation. This week Ngāti Kahungunu have deeply considered the current situation and looked to our stories and ancestors for an alternative to our tikanga of greeting with physical embrace, handshakes or hongī. Ngāti Kahungunu as an iwi is named after the tipuna (ancestor) Kahungunu, grandson of Rongokako.

In his time Kahungunu was renowned for traveling alone throughout the country while others travelled in groups of warriors - such was his charisma. He helped build and strengthen communities as he revealed his hardworking ethics by gathering food, building houses, constructing and designing Pā.

Kahungunu is renowned and remembered through our waiata (songs) and pūrākau (tribal stories) for his many marriages that subsequently created the iwi we are today. It was the raising of his bushy and prominent eyebrows that attracted his many wives and subsequently the nickname for Ngāti Kahungunu descendants 'Ngā Tukemata o Kahungunu', meaning the bushy eyebrows of Kahungunu. We have built this whakataukī into our ways of being and greeting each other, the raising of the eyebrows is what we have called the 'Kahungunu Wave'. In Kahungunu history and tradition the 'Kahungunu Wave' is more common than the hongī! In this 'Coronavirus' atmosphere we seek out ease and reassurance, look to our tīpuna, and swap out our 'physical contact' greetings for the 'Kahungunu Wave' – Ngā Tukemata o Kahungunu.

Nā, Erena Tomoana

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



Vision and Hearing Technician School Visit - (To Be Confirmed)

Lynley Keehan, the Hastings Vision and Hearing Technician will be making a **second** visit to the school on **Thursday 2 July**. She will be carrying out standard tests for distance vision with some of the Class 5, 6 & 7 students - this happens every year for all students in New Zealand, and is helpful for picking up on simple vision issues which may not have been previously identified. She sometimes checks other students too: If there is no record of your child/children have not had a Before School Screen or need to be re-screened; for these exceptions, I will send home a letter inform you that Lynley would like to see them. If you have concerns about your child/children's vision or hearing, and they are not being seen by an outside professional, please collect a yellow form from the office and have it filled in and returned **before** Thursday 2 July, and she will include them.

Karyn Wills
Literacy Support & Lower School SENCO

School Directory

This year we would like to publish the school directory including only parents' email addresses and cell phone numbers. Home addresses will not be included. Please email suzan.bart@taikura.school.nz by Friday 27 March if you would prefer your details **NOT** to be included in the directory

Mark Your Calendar

March	20	All Day	Autumn Equinox
April	10	All Day	Good Friday - Start Of Term Break
April	27	All Day	Monday - Anzac
April	28	8:30 am - 3:00 pm	Term 2 Begins

SCHOOL NOTICES

Upcoming Events:

Autumn Equinox Friday 20 March

Michaëlmas

The sword-wielder,
the dragon-confronter,
gathering up the true aims,
shielding the purposes of our hearts.

He watches over the conflicts
of the dark time,
sending down iron courage
from shooting stars,
lifting the heart to see ahead
the light that overcomes in darkness.

Evelyn Capel



Presently we are not so able to meet together and celebrate the seasons, Sabbats or festivals in our usual manner - however there are many lovely things you can do at home to celebrate the Autumn Festival.

The classic festival food is always a winner. In our house my boys love the classic pumpkin pie. This year though, there will be no pie until we have completed a working bee in our garden. A perfect Autumn activity, which according to the HeartMath Institute of America in a recently published and wonderful article, "Tune up the Immune System with Gardening", is of considerable benefit to the immune system.

Kelly Sutton
Deputy Principal

SCHOOL NOTICES

Below is further clarification of school events and activities which are a result of the developing **COVID-19** situation.

Autumn Festival

This event is for students and staff only. There will be no games or picnic lunch – including no sausage sizzle or cake stall.

We have had a request from parents in Classes 1-4 to record the play and to share this with parents and we would like to meet this request. The digital file created would be shared with parents of Classes 1-4 with the rationale that this is only happening due to the unprecedented decision to not have parents present at the festival. Parents will be asked to agree upon the opening of the file to not sharing it, not uploading it to social media, and not showing it to their children. This is in line with our Privacy, Digital Technology, Cyber Safety and Community Code of Conduct policies.

Between now and the end of this term we have three other performances which we will also consider recording and sharing with parents - Class 10 Kapa Haka performance, Class 11 Eurythmy and Class 7 Easter Play.

Visitors

The question has arisen around visitors to the school. Clarification has been sought from the Proprietors Trust and the BOT. From today we will postpone all visitors to the school. This does not include those who have a pre-existing relationship and role within the school such as our tutors, itinerant music teachers and contractors. If there are any essential visitors, then health and travel checks will be completed.

Kindergarten

Kindergarten working bees are postponed for this term. Parent coffee morning is postponed for this term. Playgroup is postponed until further notice.

Offsite activities and camps

In addition to no camps and day trips, Leg up Trust visits are postponed until further notice. EIT Trades Academy is continuing for now – due to the classroom environment our students are in it is possible to trace individuals in the same way they are traced within a school.

Looking ahead we have a number of High School EOTC camps for which we are considering possible alternatives in terms of location and timing to ensure this valued part of our curriculum is maintained as much as possible. The planned Class 9 Camp for week 3 of Term 2 is currently postponed and bookings for our Class 11 South Island ski trip have been cancelled due to the current uncertainty. In regards to both of these events we will re-evaluate and confirm our options once national criteria allow.

Sports

As of today the current Taikura volleyball teams will continue as normal. The coaches involved in these teams are staff members or students. All secondary school cricket has been cancelled.

Winter sports teams are currently being formed, team practices will need to be postponed until at least next term when we have updated information from each sport code.

Teams that will **not** be able to start training are: Senior boys football, Junior boys football, 2nd 11 hockey, Class 7 netball, Class 4 hockey. There may be more teams affected as coaches are confirmed.

Other cancelled sporting events that involve our students are: Secondary School Triathlon Champs, Orienteering Sprint Championships, HB Netball Talent Development Programmes, Representative Trials and Holiday Programmes.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any further questions.

Ngā manaakitanga, nā,

Pippa Caccioppoli

SCHOOL NOTICES

Snippets From The Parent Handbook

Steiner Curriculum

The Steiner Curriculum originates from indications given by Rudolf Steiner to the teachers of the first Waldorf School in Germany in 1919. Teachers working with these indications interpret them according to the needs and disposition of their class, and for children living in Hawke's Bay, New Zealand, in the Twenty-First Century. The curriculum is not, nor ever was, intended to be fixed and unalterable. Instead it relies on each teacher's curriculum knowledge, teaching skill, creative faculties, love and understanding of the children. For the teacher, the curriculum is a vehicle for an unfolding of capacities in a timely way so that each child develops harmoniously to their fullest potential.

Head-Lice (Nits)

Just a reminder that if your child has nits they are not to come to school until treatment has happened. Treatment is an ongoing activity - depending on the type of substance/shampoo used you will need to re-check and re-treat every few days.

Head lice also make the child feel lousy - and have considerable impact on the child or adult's immune system. In situations of chronic illness, a bout of lice will often cause a relapse or a break in remission.

In a time where we all need to have optimum immunity - I ask you all to be vigilant. Please let's all check hair and treat this weekend - ensuring a nit - free start to next week.

Kelly Sutton
Deputy Principal

COMMUNITY NOTICES



Registered ECE teacher in a natural setting, Waiheke Island

At Fossil Bay School and Kindergarten we have kindness, creativity and focus at the heart of our work. We provide kindergarten and primary year education, based on the modern Rudolf Steiner curriculum, that is unhurried, screen-free and has small class-size as a priority. From that we observe the following benefits: relaxed, low anxiety children; agile, future-ready minds and strong academic outcomes.

Our magical festivals bring the community together in a very special and unique way. Our link to nature is evident in the environment where we grow the food we eat at lunch time. The kindergarten sits in a rural setting on Waiheke Island which is, according to Lonely Planet, one of the world's most beautiful islands only 40 minutes from Auckland city.

With a new General Manager on board we are preparing for a new and exciting phase of the kindergarten and are looking for proactive and enthusiastic teachers to join the team. Having experience in Steiner education will count as an advantage but is not a requirement for the teacher with the right heart and experience. The applicant needs to be interested in contributing to our new phase and mentoring others.

At this point we are looking for an experienced NZ registered teacher. Overseas applicants need to be able to get NZ teacher registration which normally at least requires a Bachelor Degree in Education.

Contact me for more information or to organise a visit to feel the magic. We look forward to hearing from you. Please include a cover letter and CV in your application.

Iris Richter, iris@fossilbay.co.nz
Applications close: 1 april 2020



TARUNA COLLEGE

Connect, Nourish, Sustain

The Art of Well-Being

Meet yourself, Know yourself, Be yourself

Come and renew your well-spring for life, refresh your soul and re-connect to what is important for you right now. **The Art of Well-Being** recognises that to be our best, to be fully available to the people and relationships that matter to us, to achieve what we set out to do, and to deepen connection to the things that are important, means finding time to nourish ourselves. Whether it is personal or professional development, our intention at Taruna is to offer you learning opportunities that will refresh and deepen your understanding of what matters in your life and work.

The Art of Well-Being invites you to take three weeks from your coming year to find a new connection to your own well-being. This programme is gentle yet enquiring, focusing on three themes that renew our well-being:

Art - recognising it as the language of the soul as 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 our own life stories and the rich tapestries that each of our lives have woven.

Contemporary, holistic thinking which provides windows to help you view the world in fresh ways about what it is to be truly human. In particular we draw on contemporary applications of the work and understandings of Anthroposophy inspired by Rudolf Steiner.

If you are exploring ways to be all you can be, and also want to help others in your work and life who need your insight and support, join us for this special learning journey.

The Art of Well-Being dates for 2020:

Seminar One: Wednesday 6 May - Monday 11 May

Seminar Two: Wed 5 August - Monday 10 August

Seminar Three: Wed 28 October - Monday 2 November

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

- busy professionals who want to re-connect with their own inner source of well-ness and creativity, as a basis for professional renewal and nourishment
- professional care-givers in any health field needing fresh tools and approaches to revitalise their work
- busy parents who want to develop their ability to be centered and insightful in their parenting
- those who recognise the dimension of spirit in their own life - in whatever shape that takes - and who seek to honour that aspect of themselves.

Earlybird price for each seminar: \$900.

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

or call 06 8777174