

Imbolc



This coming Friday is the festival day of Imbolc which marks the midway point between the winter solstice and spring equinox.

This time of year has been celebrated for centuries in many ways in many places. In the Northern hemisphere it is often merged with the Christian festival of Candlemas, marking 40 days after the birth of Christ. It is a holiday of purification, with the candles representing the purifying nature of light, both spiritually and physically. It is also the ritual end to the Christmas season, and often Christmas greenery are burned on this day, and holiday decorations are put away.

But even before the creation of the Christian liturgical year, in agrarian societies, people were greatly attuned to the turning of the seasons, and celebrated the summer and winter solstices: the longest and shortest days of the year; the equinoxes, the days halfway between the solstices which mark the beginning of the spring and fall seasons. They also celebrated the cross-quarter days between the equinox and the solstice. Candlemas and Imbolc are such days.

Imbolc is a time of year when the lengthening of daylight hours becomes noticeable. The day is celebrated because it means that winter will soon be over, and spring will come. The time of darkness and fallow earth will soon end, and new light and life-sustaining growth will come.

During a time when one's diet and income relied on what could be grown locally, the end of winter was more than a time of cabin fever and seasonal depression—it could also be a time of hunger and poverty.

When the early church created its liturgical calendars and feast days, they mapped them onto existing Roman pagan holidays, which corresponded with the solar calendar. February 2nd was celebrated as the feast day of Juno Februata, the virgin mother of the god Mars. In the Christian liturgical year, this feast day became Candlemas, and celebrated the Purification of the virgin mother of the Christian God, Jesus, and the presentation of Christ in the temple.

Meanwhile, in Celtic lands, the winter cross-quarter day was celebrated as Imbolc, a feast honoring Brigid who, in Celtic tradition, is a goddess of the Dawn, of healing, of fertility. The feast day in her honor marks the beginning of the lambing season, a sign of the earth coming back to life after the fallow time of winter. As Celtic Christianity developed, Imbolc became Candlemas, and Brigid became a saint, and the celebrations merged. It is known as a celebration of hearth and home, of the coming warmth, of fertility and purification and new life.

People lit candles or bonfires as a sign of the warmth of the sun to come. They made “Brigid’s crosses” from rushes, and dolls of Brigid were carried from house to house to bring her blessings. People also made pilgrimages to holy wells and brought back water to bless the home.

SCHOOL NOTICES

Celebrating Imbolc at Home

- Make and light candles. The simplest tradition is to bring light into your home by lighting candles. Beeswax candles are traditional.
- Make your own hand-rolled beeswax candles with this kit from Bella Luna Toys.
- Recite the following verse when lighting your candles:

*Candle, candle, burning bright,
Fill us with your holy light.
May the flame of joy and love
Glow now in our hearts.*

From *Seven Times the Sun* by Shea Darian

- Read about St. Brigid then make a Cross of St. Brigid using rushes, straw, willow branches, as available, or pipe cleaners or plastic straws.
- Clean house. Anticipate the coming of spring by engaging in some spring cleaning.
- Bring a hint of Spring colour and decoration into your season's table.
- Read poems and sing songs with children about spring. Many can be found in the volume *Spring* from the Wynstones seasonal book series.
- Take a moment to sip some tea and watch the flame of your candle flicker.



SCHOOL NOTICES



He pito kōrero!

Tikanga 101: He karakia hei whakapainga te kai – blessing our kai.

Over the last couple of weeks, while I have been at tangihanga (funerals), and on the marae, when it is time to eat, someone will tap on the table, and silence falls over the multitude, as the kaumatua, or designated people, bless the kai we are going to partake in. I always thought this was a norm; a practise that happened a long time ago, depending on how far back you go!

I was talking to a kaiako of Early Childhood Educators and from her research from kaumatua and literary research, the times to bless kai was before it was planted, and before and after it was harvested. Saying karakia before eating is a Christian practise that Māori adopted due to the missionary influences over a long period of time. However, the karakia, whether it is Christian-based or from a te ao Māori, is still practised and it is something that we say in te reo Māori in our Kindergarten and Lower School classes. Whatever the origins, it is always good to understand some of our practices, and for me there is something about stopping and giving thanks for the bounty of kai that we are about to eat. Below is one that I hear my younger nieces and nephews and some of our Lower School classes say:

E te Atua
whakapainga mātou me tēnei kai,
hei orange mō mātou tinana, mo mātou wairua hoki.
Āmine.

God, bless us and this food,
that is sustenance for our body and spirit.
Amen.

Kīwaha o te wiki ... phrase of the week!

Kua eke (coo are air care)
I've had enough to eat (or, no more to add to the discussion)

Rangi: Hemi, you want more kai?
Hemi: Kua eke, e hoa!

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



Te reo Maori Books And Resources

To give away! Free!

Nau mai, haere mai koutou!

Do you want to be reading in te reo Māori at home? Do you want some te reo books for your tamariki to read? As well as holding these resources in both our 'Whare' and Te Whare Pukapuka (library), we have an awesome collection of early readers and te reo resources to give away to school whānau.

Come and visit us in Te Whare Pukapuka from **2:30pm** this Friday, 7 August, and next Friday, 14 August, to collect a bundle of resources to take home.

Snippets From The Parent Handbook

High School Rules for leaving school grounds:

- **No** High School student may leave the grounds at morning tea time.

Lunch Pass:

- **Class 8-11** students seeking permission to leave the school grounds at lunchtime **must** have a note with a good reason signed by a parent, and by their sponsor. **No** lunch pass will be signed after 12:40pm
- **Students must** report to the office to sign out and back in to school, using the Vistab. Office staff will request to see a permission letter and pass from teacher.
- **Class 12** students sign out and sign in themselves using the Vistab, without need for parental permission. Students must sign back in before 1:20pm at the office upon returning to school.

SCHOOL NOTICES

Mā te whiritahi, ka whakatutuki ai ngā pāmanawa ā tāngata

Together weaving the realisation of potential

For the next 2 weeks Classes 1-4 and Classes 6 & 7 will be continuing to hold parent teacher interviews. The final day for these interviews is Friday 21 August. We warmly invite you to come along and meet with your child's class teacher. We look forward to this time in the year, where with whānau, we take a pause, reflect and plan together your child's learning journey.

It is our expectation that all parents attend these interviews. We will be using the same booking site as in previous years <https://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz/>

We encourage you to book on-line please. However, parents who do not have access to a computer can phone Adrienne to book an appointment.

Warm wishes
Kelly Sutton

Booking Your Interview

When you login you will see each class teacher has a range of times on various days available for interviews. We trust that the many options available will make it possible for all families to attend.

On-line bookings are now open.

Please note that the interview booking times for the following week, will be closed off each Friday afternoon prior to that week. Families not booked for an interview will be contacted by the school prior to the final interview week to ensure a suitable time is found.

How to Book

1. Log onto the following website: <http://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz>
2. Enter the following code into the 'event code': **vt6wp**
3. You will then be guided by the website.

Class 10 Presents "Rosie" By Patrick Spillane

Class Ten has been working on their play, "Rosie"

Rosie is a play about a girl, her family and friends, navigating life during World War II.

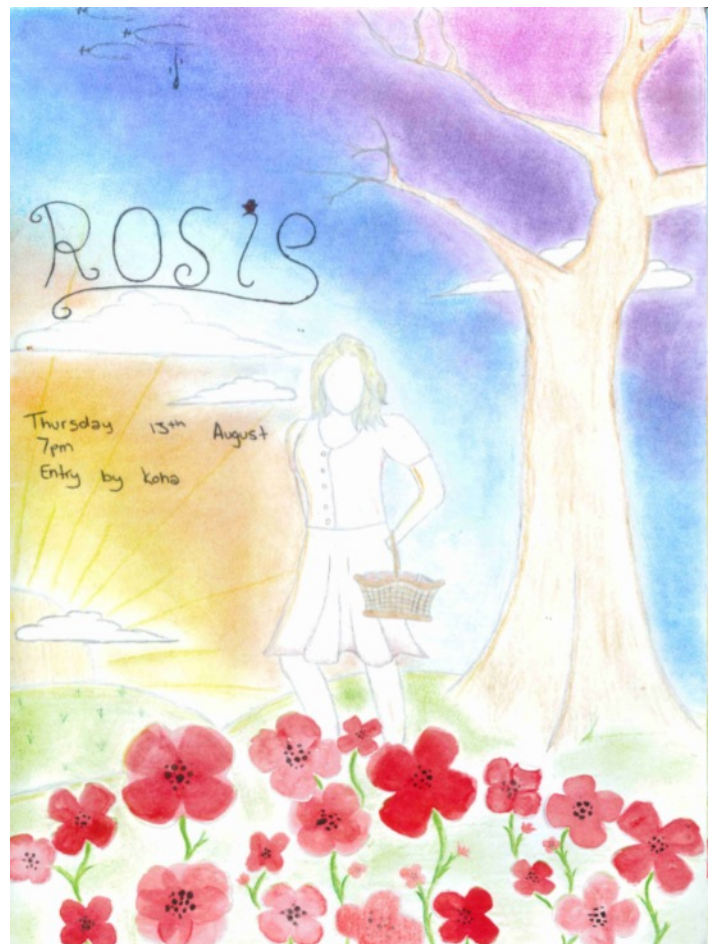
A strong storyline with an element of tragedy.

Please come and support us:

When: 7:00pm Thursday 13 August

Where: School Hall

Entry by koha and all are welcome.



SCHOOL NOTICES

Careers Information

We will be taking all Class 9 students over to EIT Friday 14 August at 12:30-2:00 pm so students have an informed opinion if they wish to do Trades Academy in their Class 10 year.

Trades Academy is a Ministry of Education funded project that Taikura has been involved in for the past 9 years. It is in partnership with EIT and involves students working on project based learning 1 day a week, usually a Friday, at EIT doing one of the courses below. This is a great pathway into Star Courses or Gateway and Work Experience in the future and also an opportunity for students to try hands on what a chosen career pathway could look like.

Jade Powell and I will be speaking with students about Trades Academy, and current students who are attending Trades this year at EIT will share their experiences at an assembly.

You can see more about Trades Academy at the following link: <http://www.eit.ac.nz/subject-areas/trades-academy/>

These are the 2020 confirmed courses:

- Agriculture
- Animal Care
- Automotive
- Bakery
- Building and Construction
- Business Enterprise
- Computer Technician
- Engineering
- Hair and Beauty Services
- Horticulture
- Hospitality
- Integrated Primary Skills
- Sport and Exercise
- Services Preparation
- Tourism and Travel
- Trade Skills
- Whakairo – Carving

Please do not hesitate to ring me if you have more queries about how students apply to do this.

Have a superb day.

Lesley Cox

Careers/Gateway/STAR Taikura Rudolf Steiner School

Mark Your Calendar

August 6	6:30 pm - 7:30 pm	Class 3 Parents Evening
August 7	2:30 pm	Te Reo Books And Resources - School Library Te Whare Pukapuka
August 11	3:30 pm - 8:30 pm	HS Parent Teacher Interviews - Code 55m8s
August 13	9:00 am	Class Photos - Important Information See Last Page For Details
August 13	7:00 pm	Class 10 Play - "Rosie" by Patrick Spillane - School Hall
August 14	2:30 pm	Te Reo Books And Resources - School Library - Te Whare Pukapuka
August 19	7:00 pm	Class 12 Parent Evening -TH 3
August 26	7:00 pm	Liaison Parent Meeting - School Library
August 28	8:45 am - 9:00 am Start	Parent Group - George W Carver benefactor to humanity - David Urieli
September 2	7:00 pm	HS Information Evening - More info To Come

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

SCHOOL NOTICES

Fête News

We are thrilled to welcome three new members to our team. Jenny Allan is going to take on the role of food coordinator, and Trudi Collins and Lynda Warren will be working with Rosheen to manage the children's activities. Haere mai and thank you for your efforts!

We are very fortunate to be able to go ahead with our Fete this year, there are many communities around the world for whom daily life is far from normal, and where an event involving crowds would be unthinkable.

Our annual Fete is held in November and is our one big community fundraising effort of the year. Our kura benefits financially as well as socially, as families connect with one another, and we are able to showcase our Special Character and beautiful campus to the wider Hawkes Bay community.

Until around 4 years ago funds raised by the Fete were donated to the Proprietors Trust, who spent the money where they saw a need. The Trust have the best interests of the children and the education at heart, but the process was not particularly transparent. The decision was made by the current committee, together with the Principal, to donate funds raised directly to the Board of Trustees, and for the committee to be involved in decisions as to where the funds could be best spent. Fete funds are not spent on topping up donations or attendance dues, or servicing debt. There are robust practises in place to ensure all funds are accounted for and correctly designated.

Our first project, after consulting with school staff, was to create a shade area outside the hockey turf, which would benefit students in both summer and winter. Unfortunately, this process has taken an incredibly long time, with plans and costs blowing out of all proportion. With the help of our Property Manager we have at last resolved the issues and these holidays posts finally went into the ground. We are looking forward to sharing some photos of the finished product in the Grapevine very soon, and feel certain this area will add value both aesthetically and practically. A plaque will be added to acknowledge the efforts of parents in creating this area. Because we have managed to bring the cost of this project right down, there is a healthy surplus of Fete funds, and we are working together with school management to ensure it is utilised where there is a direct benefit to children. We hope to finalise our next project very soon so the whole community can be made aware of what we are all fundraising towards.

We are looking forward to another cracking day in November and thank you in advance for your support. Updates will be appearing regularly in the Grapevine, but please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or feedback.

Kia ora, nā

Suzan, Rosheen, Kylie, Bekkie, Brad, Jenny, Trudi & Lynda

taikurafete@gmail.com

Class One Playground

A reminder that the Class One playground is not to be used by families at drop off and pick up time.

COMMUNITY NOTICES



Messy Church
@ St Matthew's
Hastings

Saturday 8 August 2020

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)

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Playgroup Coordinator Required

Playgroup Coordinator (part time, fixed term, term time only)

The Taikura Rudolf Steiner Kindergartens have a part time position available for a Playgroup Coordinator. This position is fixed term until 9 July 2021 at which time the requirements of the position will be reviewed. The position is for 4.5 hours per week over three mornings. One morning is in Taradale and two are in Hastings, as well as an additional 1.5 hours a term for administration preparation. The position would support the Senior Teacher to coordinate the smooth running of the playgroups and provide administration support. A copy of the position description is available from erika.potter@taikura.school.nz

Applications close Monday 10 August 2020 and are by way of CV and covering letter. Please email applications to erika.potter@taikura.school.nz

The Art Of Eurythmy

Building a healthy rhythm in life through The Art of Eurythmy.

This is an offering of six morning sessions 8.30-9.30am, Thursdays starting 6 August – 10 September, at Taruna College.

Cost: \$70 for 6 sessions. To register: contact Sue sue.simpson0@gmail.com or phone 0210396186



Winter Warmer Craft Workshops At Taruna College

Come and learn from master craftspeople.

Saturday 1 August 10:00 am - 3:00 pm Choose from Needle Felting with Sabine Laakmann, Calligraphy with Rebecca from Panoply Studio or Flax Weaving: Mahi raranga with Te Kaahurangi Maioha

Saturday 8 August 10am - 3pm Choose from Mixed Media Printing with Ingrid Schlener; Flax Weaving: Mahi raranga with Te Kaahurangi Maioha or Calligraphy with Rebecca from Panoply Studio
To enrol see our website www.taruna.ac.nz or contact info@taruna.ac.nz, 8777175

Keen On Knitting?

Are you keen on knitting? Whether an absolute beginner or a seasoned virtuoso we warmly welcome you to join us in our newly developing circle. Our local expert Jessica Kerr (aka peggy_squared - check out her Instagram) will be on hand with her wide knowledge of yarns, needles, patterns, stitches, tips and tricks. Every Tuesday, starting 11 August, in the Taikura kindergarten whānau room between 4:30 and 6:30 pm. Koha appreciated. **Adults only please.** For further information please contact Suzan 021 206 5909



The Christian Community

A movement for religious renewal founded on the indications of Rudolf Steiner

FRIDAY AUGUST 7

5:00 pm Confirmation Class

SATURDAY AUGUST 8

10:00 am The Act of Consecration of Man

Followed by morning tea

11:30 am 'Whitsun Conversation: Luke 15 - The Prodigal Son'

Saturday afternoon is available for Sacramental Consultations. Please email cheryl.n.p@gmail.com, or phone or text 021 023 20932 to make a time.

7:00 pm 'The 10 weeks between St. John's Tide and Michaelmas as a path of initiation'

Followed by Close of Day Service

SUNDAY AUGUST 9

9:00 am Family Circle followed by the

Sunday Service for Children

10:00 am The Act of Consecration of Man

Followed by morning tea

ONGOING DAILY SERVICES

The Act of Consecration of Man continues daily at 10am.

Thank you for accompanying us when and how you can.

This is one of our responses to the needs of our earth, and all beings connected with her.