



17 June 2021

The Celebration of Mid-Winter

This coming Monday 21 June the earth celebrates the Mid-Winter Solstice.



Scorpio looms above us as the dominant constellation with Libra before and Sagittarius after. The solstice itself means 'the standing still of the sun' and, for a few days, indeed the sun seems to be standing still as the hours of sunlight only begin to lengthen by a few imperceptible minutes each day. Up until now, the earth has slowly been breathing in towards this quiet, contemplative and inwardly-awake time. After begins the slow out breath towards spring and summer.

A theme for midwinter in the Lower School is the light of soul and spirit that each of us carries deep within, and that can be encouraged to shine out into life and symbolised by the making and carrying of our lanterns.

How many times throughout history has one brave shining soul illuminated the darkened times around them with the light of Truth and Spirit, *so that there can never be a complete turning-back* and been a 'light shining in the darkness'.

The following is a verse from Rudolf Steiner's Calendar of the Soul, these week-by-week meditative verses endeavor to evoke the inner mood and reality of that week. Here is next week's verse:

To bear Spirit-light
Into the winter nights of worlds
My questing heart strives joyfully
That shining seeds of soul
May root in worlds of deep ground
And the Word of God in sense's dark resounds,
Transfiguring all that is.

The above excerpt was written by Peter Lee. Grapevine 2012

During the solstice week at Taikura themes of midwinter, warmth and light will be celebrated. Culminating for Lower School children in the walking of a midwinter spiral on Friday and for the High School Festival on Thursday 24 June. This festival marks the first formal transition point for Class 7 students - who join the High School for their midwinter celebration.

Some families have their own midwinter solstice celebrations. Whether it be a midwinter meal or an activity in the elements of nature, the festival team wishes you a wondrous week.



SCHOOL NOTICES



He pito kōrero!

This year Matariki rises in the east around this time which coincides with 'Te Takanga o te rā (Winter Solstice). However, the time to acknowledge the rising of Matariki is in the 'Tangaroa' phase of the maramataka (the Māori lunar calendar), which is from Friday 2 July to Monday 5 July.

This year as part of our celebrating Matariki, on Friday 9 July at 5:45 am, Piripi Smith, Celestial Navigator and Kaitiaki of Te Ātea-a-Rangi (the Star Compass at Waitangi domain), will give a talk about Matariki and what is happening with the stars at present.

We also thought it would be good to share whakatauki (proverbs), ways of celebrating and acknowledging Matariki, and to share again the story that was shared by Erena Tomoana last year:

*I te timatanga – in the beginning, there was only darkness, nothing but night. And in the darkness, two beings – Ariki – lay together. They were **Ranginui** the father, and **Papatūānuku** the mother. They had many children, and for a time all was peaceful. But the children started to grow. They became restless and fidgety. Two of the youngest brothers, **Mokohuruhuru** and **Uepoto**, went exploring one day to the edges of the space between their parents. It was there that they saw a distant light, piercing the darkness through a gap in the embrace of Ranginui and Papatūānuku. Mokohuruhuru and Uepoto hurried back to share what they had seen, and wānanga between the brothers began.*

*Some of the brothers suggested separating their parents. Others disagreed and as they argued their space became more cramped and the children became more restless and frustrated. Attempts were made to create more space. Despite protest from some of the tamariki who were happy to remain between their parents, others felt trapped and took turns pushing and struggling. Rangi and Papa could feel this and became aware of what was happening – someone was pushing them apart! Finally, it was **Tāne** who separated his parents with support from his brothers. Ranginui was sent upward to become Sky Father, and Papatūānuku downward to become Earth Mother. There was light – Te Ao Mārama.*

The children were free at last. Ranginui was so sad his tears fell as rain upon Papa, but someone else was sad too...(to be continued!)

Whakatauki - Proverb

Matariki tāpuapua

Matariki, the season when water lies in pools.

Kua takoto hārotoroto mai te wai i te whenua.

The saying is used to describe the heavy rains of winter.

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



Vision and Hearing Technician School Visit

Lynley Keehan, the Hastings Vision and Hearing Technician is visiting the school on Wednesday 18 August. 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, for example, if there is no record of your children having had a Before School Screen or if they need to be re-screened; for these exceptions, I will send home a letter to 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 Friday 13 August and she will include them too.

Karyn Wills - Literacy Support & Lower School SENCO

SCHOOL NOTICES

Curriculum Corner

"We are fully human only while playing, and we play only when we are human in the truest sense of the word"
- Rudolf Steiner

Class 1 - Tobias Hensel

As the class is embarking on a shared journey over the next several years, one big and central task for us is to form a community.

A big contributor to the forming of this community is play, outside on the playground:



and inside:



You might say: "it's just play"

but we say: "it is through play that we will find our way", unfolding our skills for problem solving, analysing, evaluating, innovating, creating, communicating, cooperating, negotiating, empathy, active listening, compromising, self-esteem, motivation, resilience, concentration, persistence, ... to name a few (Ministry of Education, 2007).

"If a child has been able in his play to give up his whole loving being to the world around him, he will be able, in the serious tasks of later life, to devote himself with confidence and power to the service of the world." Rudolf Steiner

Wet Weather

Just a reminder that with this changeable weather also comes changes in temperature. For everyone to stay well and in good health, it is important for us to have layers of clothing which can be taken off or added too. The wet and cold days, with the warm snaps here and there, are fertile ground for winter colds. There are times when children do not have the right or sufficient amounts of gear to cope with these weather changes throughout the day.

The children love playing in the rain and where possible we encourage them to venture out as the rain often creates a new and interesting play environment, but they are only able to go outside if they have appropriate wet-weather gear. This includes a hooded long length rain coat which goes past their bottom, and gumboots, which are also essential wet-play gear. We encourage gum-boots for outdoors and slippers for indoors. During these winter terms it is really helpful for your child if you can ensure they have all the appropriate clothing for these changeable days.



There is no such thing as BAD WEATHER - Just Bad Gear

SCHOOL NOTICES

Class 5 Clay Workings

Class Five has been learning about the birth of civilization. We have been looking at the ancient culture of Mesopotamia. One of the major advances at this time was clay working. The class has experienced making a pinch pot and a coil pot. We are learning how to burnish our pots with a smooth stone, to make them shiny and smooth. This ancient technique was used to give a fine finish to clay in the time before glazing was known.



Leon Crellin Class 5 Teacher



Mid Winter Festival Celebration Invitation

Next week the school will celebrate midwinter. In anticipation of our festival for the children. We warmly invite parents to come and walk the spiral, so you too can share in your child's experience. None of us are too old to wonder and perhaps leave with a sense of gratitude for the opportunity to be touched by the simple beauty of the spiral.

Thursday 24 June - 7:00 pm - Adults Only

At the Rudolf Steiner Centre, corner Whitehead Rd and Nelson Street, across the road from Taikura Rudolf Steiner School.

From Sue Simpson
Eurythmist, ex Principal and current Proprietors Trust Chair.



SCHOOL NOTICES

Sharing From The Kindergarten

Mā te whakaatu, ka mōhio
Mā te mōhio, ka mārama
Mā te mārama, ka mātau
Mā te mātau, ka ora.



By discussion cometh understanding
By understanding cometh light
By light cometh wisdom
By wisdom cometh life everlasting.

Young children ask questions, sometimes a lot! But what do they want to know? Perhaps not why the sky is blue or the train is loud on the tracks. What *do* they want to know? That home is safe and warm and there is security in rhythm and repetition. That doing things a different way is not necessarily the wrong way. That the world is full to the brim with possibilities but where they are right now is the very best place to be. That people are kind and they are loved for being who they are. Children are curious, they ask questions, sometimes a lot, but at kindergarten ngā kaiako frequently reply “I wonder.”.. We leave the question open for the child to use their imagination, or sometimes an older child will have an answer or suggestion; understanding comes through discussion - mā te whakatu, ka mōhio.

Kindergarten children are playing and doing, this is their kindergarten work. The kindergarten years are a time of rich, imaginative play which is supported by the rhythm of the day (enough time), resources (open ended) and our mixed age groups. Younger children observe the more complex play themes of the older tamariki and imitate, perhaps some days later, in an exploratory and simpler way. Imitation and doing, using our will (feelings and thinking are still present) dominates for kindergarten age children. You may observe how play changes with young children, how they can move swiftly through one play theme to another. The resources are capable of transformation - a piece of wood can change from a tractor gear stick to a sword in seconds, and reflects how the children are transforming their bodies, changing physically. Play has its own rhythm at kindergarten and the children know that tidy time comes afterwards; through this understanding of the rhythm comes a lightness, a letting go, as the children are secure that the teachers will help if needed and that their ideas are valued - mā te mōhio, ka mārama.

Nursery rhymes are a perfect example of imaginative language for young children using strong rhythm and imagery and perhaps with an element of nonsense. Like many things in young children’s lives repetition is so important (I can remember my children asking “sing it another (a)gain” in a singsong voice). As Joan Almon writes “like the fairy tales, nursery rhymes are the exact opposite of educational books. They speak not to the head but to the knowing heart.”

At the parent talk by Kura Rutherford last month on stories for children, a parent asked me why we choose the stories we do at kindergarten. Often the stories are seasonal or relate to a festival or special time, such as Matariki. Sometimes stories are funny or they have a message such as *Goldentthroat* (an adaptation of The Little Red Hen). Fairy tales nourish our souls in so many ways. There is often an obstacle to be overcome (building resilience, repetition) and someone unexpected who can help. Archetypal elements that speak to the wisdom of the child from nature and beyond are also part of fairy tales and creatively answer many of the questions young children may be asking - mā te mārama, ka mātau. Mā te mātau, ka ora. By light cometh wisdom, by wisdom cometh life everlasting.

“Listen to each other’s imagination, quite cool!” said an older child to her friend as they were playing recently in kindergarten.

Reference: Joan Almon, J. (1987). *The Incarnating Child*. Stroud, United Kingdom: Hawthorne Press

By Bridget Berlin - Taikura Kindergarten Teacher

SCHOOL NOTICES

Kindergarten Staffing Update

We are pleased to introduce Joanna Bruce and Toni Botherway who have started work as kindergarten assistants this term.



Joanna and her husband live in nearby Napier with their daughter Sara, who is a Class 9 student at Taikura. Joanna is a qualified Teacher Aide who has worked for PORSE and has enjoyed spending time volunteering at local schools including Napier Central School, Bledisloe School and Hohepa School. Joanna loves to be part of a team when working with children and young people.

“I love seeing the joy on a child’s face when they have been struggling with a learning task, and then everything fits into place”, she says.

Joanna last worked as a machinist making electric rope and bunny cord for the farming industry. Her last volunteer position: “I gib-stopped a friend’s spare room.” Originally Joanna’s occupation was in the building industry as an architectural draughts person. “I’m also good at plastering and painting houses”.

Joanna is most proud of her children, no matter their mistakes or success.

On weekends Joanna loves hanging out with her daughter, playing with their Mini Schnauzer and doing art and being creative. She shared that she is also “a big movie buff.”

Joanna’s hobbies are crafts, such as knitting, sewing - creating and fixing things. She is also a passionate gardener. “I’m a bit of a Jackie of all trades, I love learning and trying new things.” she says. Joanna is good at doing projects, if something stumps her, she’ll learn about it and give it a go.

Joanna is able to use NZ Sign Language and enjoys learning more words and phrases. However, “I love maths and science more than languages.”



Toni and her husband live in Hastings with their two sons, Ben and Logan, who are in Classes One and Two at Taikura.

Toni holds a NZ Diploma in Business and a National Certificate in Computing. After working for years in lawyers’ offices she had two beautiful boys and spent her time with them. “I’m extremely proud of being a mum, and see myself growing as my boys do”, she says. She feels that now it is time to continue working with young children and found the kindergarten assistant role as a perfect opportunity.

Toni enjoys reading, and often curls up with a good book once the boys are in bed. She also enjoys cooking, and trying out new recipes on Lance and the boys! Knitting is Toni’s main talent/hobby, but she also likes to do cross stitch, jigsaws, and word puzzles, walking, and enjoys going on family walks with their dogs during the warmer months.

Toni always wanted to learn Spanish or Italian, and is now enjoying learning more Te Reo Maori words and phrases.

We are very lucky to welcome both Joanna and Toni to our kindergarten team.
Haere mai dear Joanna and Toni.

Danica Hensel Ondrusova
Kindergartens Senior Teacher

Invitation To All - Parent Talk

I am very pleased to inform you that this term we will be looking forward to an evening talk which will be held in the Taikura Kindergarten whānau room.

Meeting Date and Time - Wednesday 30 June-7:00 pm - Steiner for Beginners - talk by Jessica Soutar Barron

SCHOOL NOTICES

Calling All Book Lovers!!

2021 Book Week

Here at Taikura we are getting very excited about Book Week, which will be in the last week of Term Two from Monday 5 - Friday 9 July. Over the coming weeks we will be providing more details about the events we have planned, including a book swap, story tent sessions and a dress-up parade.

Below is the timetable for Book Week.

Friday 2 July	Monday 5 July	Tuesday 6 July	Wednesday 7 July	Thursday 8 July
Bring in your unwanted books and receive tokens to buy more books at our pre-loved book sale on Monday!	<p>Pre-loved book sale - use your tokens or bring some spare change.</p> <p>Afternoon story in the storytelling tent for Class Three</p> <p>Lunchtime Story for Classes 1-4 - student librarians reading in the story tent</p>	<p>Quidditch tournament for high school students</p> <p>Afternoon story in the storytelling tent for Class Two</p> <p>Lunchtime Story for Classes 1-4 - student librarians reading in the story tent</p>	<p>Quidditch tournament for high school students</p> <p>Afternoon story in the storytelling tent for Class Four</p> <p>Lunchtime Story for Classes 1-4 - student librarians reading in the story tent</p>	<p>Quidditch tournament for high school students</p> <p>Dress Up Day - Come to school dressed up as your favourite book character! Classes 1 - 7</p> <p>Afternoon story in the storytelling tent for Class One</p> <p>Lunchtime Story for Classes 1-4 - student librarians reading</p>

Mark Your Calendar

June 24 5:15 pm - 6:30 pm
 June 24 7:00 pm
 June 28 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
 June 30 7:00 pm
 July 1 3:00 pm - 3:45 pm
 July 7 and 8 7:00 pm
 July 28 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm
 July 28 6:00 pm
 August 11 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Taikura Kindergarten Mid Winter Festival
 Mid Winter Festival - Rudolf Steiner Centre - (address above) ADULTS ONLY
 BOT Meeting - School Hall
 Steiner For Beginners - Talk By Jessica Soutar Barron - Whānau Room
 Theresa Lam - Liaison Visitor From Otago University - Classes 11/12 - TH 3.4
 Class 12 Play - "The Mouse That Roared" by Leonard Wibberley - School Hall
 Class 8 Parents' Evening - TH 2.7
 Class 12 Parents' Evening - TH 3
 Mid Winter Magic - Community Mid Winter Celebration

COMMUNITY NOTICES



*The Students of the
Kairos Post Graduate Diploma in Artistic Therapy
warmly invite those who have taught us and supported us through our
training to attend the*

Presentation of End Projects and Graduation Ceremony

*Saturday 10th July 2021 at 1.30pm
The Anthroposophical Centre, 500 Nelson Street, Hastings*

*1.30pm Welcome
Presentation of End Projects
Graduation Ceremony
Presentation of Diplomas
Student Response
4pm Afternoon Tea*

*An exhibition of the end projects and other artwork can be viewed at the
Anthroposophical Centre at the following times:*

*Friday 9th July 11am - 4pm
Saturday 10th July 9am - 12pm*

COMMUNITY NOTICES

House For Sale

Three bedroom bungalow for sale, great location in Taradale. five minutes walk to shops and very close to primary, intermediate and secondary schools. For further details contact Karen on 027 7658396

COMMUNICATION for CONNECTION

Hastings: 3 and 4 July

Empowering Support For Parents

Providing empowering life skills with communicating and relating in the ways we want to! This workshop is valuable support for all your relationships: as parents, partners, community members... and especially the most important relationship - the one we have with ourselves. *There is no greater investment than investing in what nourishes and empowers your life.* You will receive new awareness, and skill to communicate more confidently and effectively, deepen connections and foster cooperation. Discover new ways to keep your cup filled, reduce reactivity and live with more harmony.

Filipa has been providing this workshop for parents and educators for more than a decade. *Value for your investment is backed up with a money back guarantee!* If you would like to hear feedback from someone at Taikura who has completed this course, let me know. Based on the world renowned principles of Nonviolent Communication. Facilitated by Filipa Hope (past Taikura parent). Numbers limited to 14 - 9:00am - 4:30pm both days. Investment: \$250.00 (incl's morning & afternoon tea)

Registrations to Filipa: filipahope@gmail.com phone 0274 513 445

School App

If you have not already done so, please download our SchoolApp into your smart phone. You will find school contacts, newsletters, a link to our website, term dates, absentee notifications and our calendar which is filled with upcoming events, meetings, camps and trips. Subscribe to class alert groups and you will receive notifications such as class camp school arrival times and meeting reminders straight to your phone. So much useful information!

1. Go to the **App Store** or **Google Play Store** on your mobile device
2. Search **SchoolAppsNZ**
3. Download the **App**
4. Open the **App**
5. When it asks to send notifications – click allow.
6. When it asks to search your **School** – type your **School Name** in the search bar
7. Lastly, subscribe to the Alert Groups you would like to receive alerts for.



Unwanted Items Needed

I am a parent at the school working in a Centre which is in need of clothing, toys and blankets for children aged from around six months to three years. These cannot always be supplied by the families and we can be short of them in the Centre. If you have any that you would like to donate that you no longer need it would be greatly appreciated. The main things that we are in need of are natural toys, books woollen blankets, woollen underlays, shoes, slippers, cot sheets, woollen clothing, socks, jackets and jacket vests for our children in this cold weather.

Michelle 0211422970

Billets Required For The

International Kolisko Conference.

This conference is for Teachers, Parents, Medical/Health professionals and will be held at Taikura Rudolf Steiner School.

Suggested koha/charge \$40.00 a night. Breakfast included. Wednesday 14 - Saturday 17 July 2021

Contact Corrie Levick 027 3680242 or ph 8367678

[email:corrie.levick@gmail.com](mailto:corrie.levick@gmail.com)