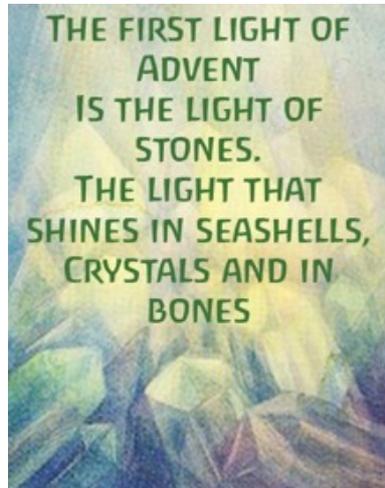




Advent

- Latin for - "that which is coming"



The poem below can guide us through the four weeks of Advent. Each week a kingdom in nature could be considered and gratitude given. The corresponding stanza of the poem - glued onto a card, to be added to the festival table or mantle piece - until all kingdoms are represented.

The first light of Advent is the light of stones-
Light that lives in crystals, seashells, and bones.

The second light of Advent is the light of plants-
Plants that reach up to the sun and in the breezes dance.

The third light of Advent is the light of beasts-
All await the birth, from the greatest and the least.

The fourth light of Advent is the light of humankind-
The light of hope that we may learn to love and understand."

This Sunday Will Mark The First Advent Sunday Of 2021

How does your whānau mark the Sundays of Advent and the Advent Season? What elements of the coming festive season have meaning to you? There is no right or wrong way to create traditions in your home. Over the years I have come to realise that one ritual or tradition held by me consistently, with relationship to its meaning, has proved to be more potent for my children than the myriad of traditions and Christmas activities I brought into my home over the years - all in pursuit of being a perfect Steiner mum. Perfection is a lofty ideal. In the busy season of Christmas amongst end of year activities the ideal of how it should be - can actively work against the holding of space for peaceful family connection. Our interactions when we actively practice the virtues of goodwill, hope, love and peace to all, along with the intentional festival space we create, provide an opportunity for ourselves and family to experience the mood of Christmas.

Yesterday evening a small group gathered via zoom to explore the ideas behind Advent and the various ways a whānau may want to observe this festival. A festival of waiting and preparing for the birth of the Jesus baby. Thank you to all who joined.

Kelly Sutton
Deputy Principal

SCHOOL NOTICES

Possible Family Activities Over Advent

Create an Advent Festival Table. The first week celebrates the Mineral Kingdom. You might adorn the festival table with a blue cloth - the colour of Mother Mary's mantle. On the table a candle and gemstones are placed. These elements help create the landscape to where on Christmas Eve, Mary and Joseph arrive. The following day - sees the empty manger filled when the sweet baby Jesus is placed in the empty manger.



Alternatively, you might wish to use a soft sea blue with a buttery lemon coloured cloth, colours of the Aotearoa summer beach. Instead of gemstones, simple greywacke may be all that adorns your table, echoing the beautiful landscape of Aotearoa.

Make An Advent Wreath



The Advent wreath is four candles on a wreath of evergreen. Some people like to have a central white candle - representing the Christ and/or universal love. The wreath is shaped in a perfect circle to symbolize the eternity of the seasons, God and universal love. Each Sunday of the Advent season, you might focus on one of the four virtues the Jesus child brings to us: Hope, Love, Joy and Peace. Others consider the lighting of the first candle to symbolize expectation, while the second symbolizes hope, the third joy and the fourth purity. The Christ candle in the centre of the wreath can be lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day - a picture of light arriving - the Jesus child is here.

Advent Meal

Each Advent Sunday you might have a special Advent dinner with food reserved for these four meals specifically. Or a significant food of your childhood or homeland, a traditional family recipe - something that is dear to your heart and that which you want to hold significance for your children. During your meal you might light a dinner candle or the candles of the Advent wreath.

SCHOOL NOTICES

Thoughts Of Advent From Darryn Breakwell

The idea of Christmas for all intents and purposes in this modern age does a great job of leading us away from what Advent should lead us towards.

Often referred to as the “Silly Season” it is probably more accurately described as the “Stressed-out Season” as we try and combat the demands that are pressing upon us from society in general. To align more with what advent asks of us we might want to consider working towards making it the “Simple Season”.

Advent asks for a cultivation of inner peace from us, to find quiet moments, go within, internalise outer light and shine it back out into the world. Now we can call it light or something else but there is a sense in which we choose to perceive the good in the world and reflect that same quality back to life around us.

We could call this “light” Christ Consciousness. The impulse of Christ towards humanity continues to live on after his physicalised deeds on earth and remains present for us to embody in ourselves. It is from such a place of being, with a willingness to embody such a gesture, that we can truly share the light of Advent with our whānau. If our tamariki are wrapped in our goodwill, our composure, our warmth of thought towards the other then this is the greatest gift we could give them.

So in the hustle and bustle of the season, which is inevitable for most, let us find our quiet space of peace. As we breathe, we can commune with and act on that quality within us that is of love, understanding and goodwill. Through this we can all be blessed with a grace of being that allows us to perceive the true value in simplicity through Advent and Christmas.

Below is an Advent wreath with a beach theme.



Mark Your Calendar

December 6 - 10

2:45 pm - 3:13 pm

Christmas Cheer Appeal Donations

SCHOOL NOTICES



He pito kōrero!

Kupu o te wiki – *Word of the week*

Kura – (meaning taken from the Te Aka Online Dictionary, as a noun): red, scarlet, red feather, treasure, valued possession, heirloom, divine law, sacred, philosophy, darling, chief.

During the community te reo Māori class, our awesome kaiako (teacher) Crystal Edwards spoke to us about the significance of the word 'kura'. She talked about every kupu (word) has a whakapapa and that 'kura' is a kupu with a rich whakapapa.

As part of this kōrero, Crystal explained that one of the meanings of 'kura' is *tiny treasure*, and that when we use the term 'kura' to describe a school, we are describing the students (the treasures) of the school, and not the physical space.

Crystal's description of the word 'kura' included many other dimensions, and helped us develop consciousness about the deeper meanings and whakapapa behind words and phrases – this has been one of the many gifts of the te reo Māori classes.

Next week will be our last te reo Māori class, and I would like to take this time to thank Crystal, ngā mihi whakawhētai ki a koe, Crystal, tino waimārie mātou! I would also like to acknowledge the enthusiastic, diverse group who met every Monday for the classes. There was a real sense of community in the group, and I think each of us will go away with deeper understanding, as well as a strengthened wish to bring te reo Māori into our everyday lives. We have been very lucky to have this opportunity!

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou,
Nā Kura Rutherford

Kīwaha o te wiki – *Phrase of the week*

Tū whitia te hopo! (too fit e ear the hor por)
Feel the fear and do it anyway!

Huiarau: Kia ora e mara, kai te aha koe...what are you up to?

Tama: I'm just putting together an application for a scholarship for Uni! Mind you there'll be heaps of people going for it, I don't know whether I should, eh!

Huiarau: You never know unless you apply and you've got a good chance, with your mahi at kura this year! Tū whitia te hopo, e hoa!

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



Waiata Mai Every Thursday, From 12:30 – 1:00 p.m (At Level 1)

Ngā mihi maioha ki a koutou e te whānau whānui o Taikura!

Waiata mai will start again at Level 1. This will be every Thursday from 12:30 –1:00 pm in the Library. If you want to learn some of the waiata that your children sing at school, nau mai, haere mai te katoa.....all are welcome!

Ngā mihi mahana ki a koutou ngā kōpara e kō!
Nā Troy Gardiner

Donation Forms

For those families that have not returned a donation form for next year, a donation form will be sent home with your child this week. To save our office staff from following up forms it would be appreciated that forms are returned to the school by Tuesday 30 November. After this date our office staff will be calling families individually to follow up the return of donation forms.

SCHOOL NOTICES

Library News

Books are due back by Monday 29 November: It is the time of year when all books need to be returned. Please remind your tamariki, and contact me at library@taikura.school.nz if your child is having trouble locating their books.

Ngā mihi mahana o Hineraumati ki a koutou
Nā, Kura Rutherford - School Librarian

Christmas Cheer Appeal



This year, our school is collecting donations towards the Christmas Cheer Appeal.

Many people in Hawke's Bay will be struggling this Christmas and we are inviting our school whānau to support by donating gifts.

All school whānau are welcome to come to the school library from **2:45 pm to 3:15 pm** Monday 6 December to Friday 10 December **to visit our school Christmas tree and drop off donations.**

A Few Tips:

Please provide new gifts only. Please wrap presents and add a tag saying what the gift is and which age group it is intended for. Feel free to get creative with your presents, maybe you might want to make up children's packages with books, pyjamas and a treat, a Christmas hamper for someone experiencing hardship, or maybe a snuggly lap blanket for an elderly person living alone – there are so many different groups in need this Christmas. The current kaupapa of masks and social distancing applies when dropping in.

Watches And Reading Glasses Found

- A black watch with a blue strap and a picture on the face, was found in the gutter outside school on Wednesday.
- Round face watch with a stainless steel strap and white inside the face.
- Large G Shock found last week, strap has been cut to make it smaller.
- Pair of prescription reading glasses found "Deus" brand.

If any of these items belong to you, please see Adrienne in the office.

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.



"Bee" Safe Wear Shoes And Slap On A Hat!

Our main field always attracts the buzz of our friendly little workers of the flowers. To ensure the children are safe from harm please check that they have suitable shoes on at all times. This is up to parents and staff to enforce. If you see one of our children on the field without shoes on, please ask them to go and put some on. And te ra (*the sun*) is out in force so please make sure you wear your hats too.



COMMUNITY NOTICES

Looking For Housesitters

Kia ora, we're a Steiner family in Lower Hutt looking for someone to house and pet sit while we're away from December 23 - January 19 (can possibly discuss dates starting just after Christmas.) We live at the end of a quiet cul-de-sac on the edge of Belmont, in a house with a rambling peaceful garden with big trees, vegetable garden, chickens and a little stream down the bottom, bordering a bush reserve. Beach, bush and city delights are all close by. Our sweet dog would like some company and walks and our other pet animals are low maintenance and mainly need feeding and a few cuddles!

Please get in touch with Katja and Paul on 022-1265112 or katjakoekie@hotmail.com for a chat if you are interested.

Taikura And Kereru Kindergartens Are Looking For Casual Relief Staff

Registered Kaiako And Kindergarten Assistants

We are looking for enthusiastic people to come and support us in our kindergartens. If you are an experienced kaiako or someone interested in Steiner pedagogy in the kindergarten setting this might be an opportunity for you! Casual hours between 8:30 am - 2:45 pm (might be shorter), term time only. We are looking for both qualified registered Kaiako as well as Kindergarten Assistant support. If you are interested, please contact Danica Hensel Ondrusova at danica.henselondrusova@taikura.school.nz

Next Chapter Parenting

Offering Individual, or group, parenting sessions via Zoom.

- Eight one hourly sessions, weekly at a time convenient to you, available evenings.
- Topics covered include Communication, Empathy, Setting Limits, Quality Time, Consequences, Choices, Redirection, Pick your battles with your child, Problem Behaviour, Praise vs Acknowledgement, Time In vs Time Out, The Pause, Erickson's Stages of Growth, Personality Types and how it affects your children.
- WINZ funding assistance where eligible.

Website: www.nextchapterparenting.co.nz Contact: brigid@nextchapterparenting.co.nz

Summer Violin Lessons

Are you or your child thinking about learning the violin? Been playing for many years and wanting some fresh input? I am a Taikura graduate going into my third year of study at the New Zealand School of Music, and I am offering short-term violin lessons over the summer holidays. Boost your playing to the next level. All levels of experience welcome, from absolute beginners to Grade 8 and beyond.

Contact Miru at 0212328830 or mirushimaoka@gmail.com

Christmas Gospel Choir Invites To Sing Along

"Giving up singing Christmas songs together? Never!", says Stephan Zebe, director of Hawke's Bay Soul Choir. For the third time, Stephan is leading the Christmas Gospel Choir project again this December.

"All lovers of Gospel Choir Music are welcome to join us. Whether you have choir or vocal experience or not, with or without music reading skills, all who love to sing are welcome," Stephan says.

- Four rehearsals on Wednesdays in December (1,8,15 and 22) and a performance at Napier Baptist Church on Christmas Eve, is the frame for this community sing-along event.
- Rehearsals start at 7:00 pm at 36 Riverbend Road in Napier. Lively and modern Gospel Songs are used on the play list as well as poetic Christmas classics.
- The goal is the stage on 24 December, 8:00 pm. The performance will present the Christmas Story by candlelight with treasured Christmas songs, Christmas carols and readings.
- The event will comply with COVID-19 health guidelines.

Everybody is welcome! Please register by email: hbsoulchoir@gmail.com



Eurythmy

This Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent and I'm offering a gift of **four** eurythmy sessions in preparation for Christmas, to bring warmth and light into life.

Where: Anthroposophical Centre, corner Whitehead Road and Nelson Street.

When: Mondays starting 9:30 am.

KOHA is gratefully received to cover costs for hire of the room. **All Welcome.**

Sue Simpson sue.simpson0@gmail.com