



Getting Ready For Christmas

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



I am truly thankful to be able to tell the children about some of the Christmas traditions that I have experienced over the years. Some of the songs we sing and the stories associated with them I learned as an adult, as they are from regions I don't even know. But despite their locality they reflect the whole of the Hispanic world very well.

One of the favourites is the song about the "pampanitos verdes", the green buds of orange trees, an iconic picture and object to the regions of Southern Spain.

This song evokes strongly in me the smell of Christmas. This is a powerful sense that connects us deeply with memories and for me particularly, to the orange blossom water used in the cooking of the Christmas bread. I imagine everyone has a happy memory about the ethereal all permeating fragrance of this time of year.

This second advent is about the plant kingdom preparing for the coming. Our offering for the second advent to the children are stories related to this kingdom and this year some of them will hear me talking about the humble orange.

Another story they know is about the Poinsettia or the Christmas star, from Mexico, that depicts the Christmas celebrations of many Latin American countries: the midnight mass which is preceded by the procession with the Saint statues along the streets of the villages. And the humble offerings that the people take to the church to put underneath the "Belen", the life size nativity scene.

These are some of the pictures we give to the children with the underlying sentiments of reverence and joy that reflects the enormous gift the World received at that particular point in time.

An earth that had fallen into disrepair and needed the extra help to rise to the task of being truly human.

Reflections from Spanish teacher Sandra Jordan.



SCHOOL NOTICES



He pito kōrero!

Kīwaha o te wiki – phrase of the week

Mā te aha i tēnā! (Mar teh ar har ee teh naah)
Better than nothing, or not doing anything at all!

Huia: Kia ora e hoa, he aha ...what are those?

Tama: Kia ora Huia, they're cards I've been making for Christmas. I thought I'd make them myself this year, but they're pretty basic.

Huia: They look good. Mā te aha i tēnā, e hoa!

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



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.

Filming End Of Year Events

Over the coming weeks we will be filming our end of year events to enable parents to still have some participation during these difficult and uncertain times. Please let us know if you do not give your consent for your child/ren to be captured on film. The captured videos will be shared via a link directly with parents, and we ask for this not be on-shared or copied. Further details around this will be shared soon. This is a reminder to please let us know if you **do not** give consent for your child/ren to be captured. Email: suzan.bart@taikura.school.nz

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.

Mark Your Calendar

December 6 - 10

2:45 pm - 3:13 pm

Christmas Cheer Appeal Donations

COMMUNITY NOTICES

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.



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 second 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