



THE SECOND LIGHT OF  
ADVENT  
IS THE LIGHT OF  
PLANTS  
PLANTS THAT REACH  
UP TO THE SUN  
AND IN THE BREEZES  
DANCE

## Advent – The Arrival

**Tuia te rangi e tū iho nei, tuia te papa e takoto nei**  
*Join sky above to earth below, just as people join together.*

Meeting together as wāhine, under the mantle of advent, guided by the wisdom of two seasoned ritual makers.

This wānanga was such a gift, a real nourishment for this time, as inspiring and creative women came together for an evening of advent themed craft.

Through strengthening our awareness of the seasonal changes around us, connecting to the cycles of the sun and the moon, we are encouraged to deepen our relationship with nature. Through this relationship, reciprocity is practiced, kaitiakitanga is in action, and mutual nourishment is the natural consequence. When we stay open to the wonder and mysteries of te taiao, we begin to truly appreciate the beauty that is Christmas in Aotearoa.

Kelly talked to the importance of anticipation in our fast-paced instant gratification world. She shared some valuable resources, as well as some of her precious memories of advent growing up.

Sue guided us step by step through to completing a beautiful ethereal silk anahera/angel, as well as crafting our own little pocket box nativity. There was an abundance of materials to take away, to continue the creativity at home with whānau.

Ngā mihi nunui rawa atu ki a koutou, heartfelt gratitude for all that was offered on this night. The sharing and passing on of wisdom, and the working together to share new skills. The manaakitanga of our dear kaiako, the homemade lemonade!

Looking to the future, there will be more of these ritual celebration evenings held at our kura next year, and I highly recommend attending, karawhiua!

*In the middle of a busy week, what a beautiful, quiet, relaxing, and enjoyable evening we all had, exploring the themes of advent, and creating some beautiful crafts for our home.*

*We all left at the end of the evening with warm hearts and enthusiasm for the advent season.*



## Open Letter From A School Board Representative

Kia ora e te whānau o Taikura

As a recently elected board member, I sat in the first 'proper' board meeting and I felt pretty privileged. It is not often that a parent is able to hear all the 'ins' and 'outs' of how a school is run (nor be responsible for how some of that works). You quickly begin to see a very full picture. The wins, joys, and aroha but also the challenges and struggles that make a school what it is.

My four tamariki have had (and continue to have) a pretty exceptional education. It's not perfect, nothing ever is, but it's 'whole' and it's heartfelt. Through the curriculum somehow they come out so grounded in who they are. I'm kinda in awe of my older two (21 and 22). I was never quite that certain of who I was at their age. Not saying that the journey is always easy for them, but you can pick a Steiner kid in a busy train station on the other side of the world.

I was also reminded of how much (like my own family) it costs to run a school, and ours even more so as we have so many Special Character elements that go on behind the scenes.

As I sat at the board meeting and listened to our principal tell a completely new board how stretched the budget was and how low the coffers were, I felt like bursting into tears. What a load to carry for the management team. I also wondered how many times I had thanked those people carrying that load and for all the mahi they carry out to make our school what is - with the children at the heart of it.

I remember something similar about seven years ago when things got a bit 'stretched' and some members from the Trust came and spoke at every parent meeting to raise awareness. I would like to do the same now.

With the knowledge that times are tough for everyone and all family budgets are so under pressure (as is my own), I'd like to ask that we all pledge those donations or as much as we are possibly able to. To get the school through this time but also to acknowledge the mahi that goes on behind the scenes to grow our children into the adults they will become. From observing the adults my older girls are now, I can tell you it's worth every penny!

With gratitude to all the people who passionately run our Kura.

With gratitude to all of you, glad to be sharing my 'school years' with so many awesome people.

Nga mihi nui ki a koe

Rachel de Lacey

**Fête Funds Raised** - well done everybody thank you for all the hard work!!

**\$25,000**

### Upcoming Events

December 2	11:00 am - 12:30 pm	Class 12 Cushion Concert
December 2	8:30 am - 3:00 pm	Last Day of School for <b>CLASSES 10 -12</b>
December 8	8:30 am - 3:00 pm	Last Day for Class 8 - <b>FINISH at 3:00 pm</b>
December 9	ALL DAY	Teacher Only Day - <b>SCHOOL ONLY</b>
December 16	8:45 pm - 12:30 pm	Last Day for Lower School - 12:30 pm Finish
December 16	7:00 pm - 8:30 pm	Carol Evening - Gym

## Ngā taonga o Taikura – Treasures of Taikura

Tēnā koutou e te whānau! In the stairwell of Taikura House, the High School students are greeted by three beautiful artworks that Te Kaahurangi Maioha painted, depicting the female atua (deities) whose stories and symbols are woven through the elements of Air, Earth, Water and Fire.



*Hine-pu-te-hue – Representing Earth and Air*



*Taku Mahuika – Element of Fire*



*Te Haumapuhia – Element of Water*

### ***He pito kōrero!***

#### **Kīwaha o te wiki – kīwaha of the week**

Haere tū atu, hoki tū mai (Hi deh too ar to, hor key too my)  
An idiom to farewell visitors and wishing a safe journey and to return in good health.

Hemi: Kia ora e Roimata, kei te aha koe...what are you up to?

Roimata: Kia ora e Hemi. I've just booked my tickets to go to Rarotonga, to visit my whānau over there!

Hemi: Haere tū atu, hoki tū mai e hoa!

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



## Te Tāhuhu o Taikura

As part of Te Tāhuhu o Taikura we have identified expected behaviours for each of our values. As part of the embedding of this programme we are going to focus on a different expected behaviour each week. We will share our weekly focus in our Grapevine for the coming week so that families can participate and support also.

## Te Tāhuhu o Taikura - Focus for Weeks 7 and 8

Our teaching focus this week will be **Respect/Whakaute**, specifically: **Use Recycling Stations**

## Library News

All books are due the week of Monday 5 December

Kia ora, all library books are due next week, please help your tamariki to locate all their books. Please check under the bed, down the side of the couch, and in the family bookcase. Please contact me at [library@taikura.school.nz](mailto:library@taikura.school.nz) if your child is having trouble locating their library books.

Mihi aroha

Paula

## Waiata Mai Is Back - Thursdays – 12:30 – 1:00 pm - in the Library!

Ngā mihi hīkaka ki a koutou ngā manu tioriori o Taikura!

Waiata mai has started. Every Thursday in our Whare pukapuka – The library. If you want to learn some of the waiata that your tamariki sing at school, nau mai, haere mai te katoa....all are welcome!

Ngā mihi ki a koutou ngā kōpara e kō!

Nā Troy Gardiner

## URGENT UPDATE TO **Absence Notifications**

This term we will be moving to app and answer phone absence notifications only, eliminating the need for us to maintain a mobile phone in the office, and lessening the workload for staff having to check multiple devices and sources of information. Many thanks for your understanding and cooperation. Please find instructions on how to download the school app below.

## School App

If you have not already done so, **we encourage you to 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.



## Odyssey 2022



This year's Odyssey camp was filled with many first time events for me. I had never left from Waikawa Bay before, usually we kayak from Picton, however the wind gusting up to 20ks that day would have made the paddle from Picton extremely long. So by leaving from Waikawa Bay we were able to save two hours of paddling. Our route that day took us into Kumamoto Bay, which was our wet and windy resting place for the night, a beautiful spot with two fresh water springs and a beautiful view of the beach.

Our second day threw up many challenges with two kayaks needing some help navigating into Torea Bay with wind gusts of up to 70ks, sitting in a kayak paddling into those gusts truly showed what teamwork and will power meant. After a few changes in kayaks we continued to paddle 27ks into Mistletoe bay. We stayed here for two nights. We don't usually stay at Mistletoe Bay as it is quite flash, this is our base camp when the weather doesn't play by the rules and gives us some challenges. It's a wonderful campsite where fishing and stingray sightings were enjoyed.

On Thursday we walked 11ks to Anakiwa, the walk was an easy undulating track with beautiful views and lots of bush cover which sheltered us from the strong winds.

This year's class was able to navigate the strong gusty winds, the thunder and lightning and a wet rainy day, to successfully overcome mental boundaries and physical challenges. I really enjoyed the conversations we had along the way and reminiscing and listening to past stories was a real highlight for me.

I would really like to thank Aaron, Joe and Shaun for providing expert kayaking guidance and to Ray who supported the camp as well. To the students I really hope you continue to experience the outdoors and have many more adventures to add to your life's story.

Gee Reisima - EOTC



## Curriculum Corner

Oh no! It's all off to the dump!

Two weeks ago, working with the organization Para Kore which looks to educate and empower schools to “reduce waste through the delivery of innovative education and support within the frameworks of kaupapa and tikanga Māori”, Class 5 did a waste audit of rubbish bins in the Lower School. We found out that 90% of it could be recycled: Cans, paper, soft plastic, hard plastic, food waste, and food packaging had all made their way into the bins and all of it was going to go to landfill! On this one occasion, we managed to divert that 90% and put only 10% into the landfill, but it was evidently clear that Taikura can do A LOT better. As a result of this research, in the New Year, Class 5 will be spearheading a Green Team which will be educating the Lower School on how to organize their waste and addressing the big issue we have of how we process waste with our current bin system. Learn how to recycle Taikura! Make landfill your last choice.

By Connor Golding and Mr Blakey



## Hand Crafted Christmas Gifts

Come and take a look on Monday 5 December from 8:30 am to 9:30 am in the front room of Taikura Kindergarten, opposite the school. Prices start from \$2.00. All proceeds go to Kindergarten fundraising.

# Children's Holiday Art Classes with Amanda Sowersby

CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY ART CLASSES  
AGE 6-12 YEARS.  
TUESDAY 20TH DECEMBER 9.30-12PM &  
WEDNESDAY 21ST DECEMBER 9.30AM-12PM  
\$45 PER DAY.  
HELD AT KEIRUNGA ART CENTRE



*"We are all stars wrapped in skin the light you are seeking is always within".*

Amanda Sowersby is an Artist and Anthroposophical Artistic Therapist, specialising in healing art styles and traditional art in painting, wet on wet watercolour, acrylic, oil painting, drawing, charcoal, pastel, clay and more...

Amanda's intention for her classes and workshops is to create a safe, loving environment where people can shine through their artistic abilities.



Amanda hosts small to large art groups and also offers one on one Artistic Therapy sessions and private art events for children and adults.

To book: [art@amandasowersby.co.nz](mailto:art@amandasowersby.co.nz) 0211449168

Facebook: Amanda Sowersby Art & Artistic Therapy

## Napier K-meditation Retreat

Saturday 4 - Monday 6 February 2023. Held at beautiful Dartmoor Hills in a sustainable living environment. In this retreat, K-meditation life energy practices - from a five thousand year old Korean culture of human beings living creatively in peace and fulfillment of human potential - are linked to Brain Education which draws on modern Neuroscience. It offers a guide to true self healing, that is natural, and encourages you to create your life through bright consciousness and brain education. The retreat guide, Master Sunyong, has twenty years experience as a Master and is a Professor of Brain Education. Enquiries to [Earthvillagewellness@gmail.com](mailto:Earthvillagewellness@gmail.com)

## Accommodation Urgently Required

**BEFORE** 9 December

I am looking for a large bedroom or a sleepout to rent ASAP as I have to be out of my current place before Friday 9 December. I would love something in Hastings, close to town so biking distance would be ideal.

Please contact Alice Kenny on **0211 722 934**

# *RestOra before Christmas*

with

**Amanda Sowersby & Aaron Gregory**



**Treat yourself!**

**Restorative Yoga/Guided  
Meditation/Sound Healing/  
Reiki energy & Herbal Tea**

**Sunday 11th December**

**4pm-5.30pm \$35 Alma Studio  
17 Joll Rd, Havelock North**

**Book: [www.almastudio.co.nz](http://www.almastudio.co.nz) (Click on Events)**

## **linkandlearn.nz**

**visit [linkandlearn.nz](http://linkandlearn.nz)  
to find recreational  
courses, classes &  
workshops for adults  
& kids in Hawke's Bay.**



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### **Growing Your Vegetables**

What's The Easiest And Healthiest Way To Grow Your Own Vegetables?

Using biodynamic seedlings grown from heirloom and organic seed, ready to plant straight in the ground in compost pots. Many varieties, limited quantities and wonderful as Christmas gifts.

\$3.50 ea, 3 for \$10.00 or 5 for \$15.00

Message Amaali on 0210 50 88 13.