



Michaelmas

16 March 2023

Most of you will already be familiar with Autumn's Dragon Play, some of you may be aware of it for the first time. It has been performed for over four decades at Taikura and for good reason. The play is very straight-forward in exemplifying the gesture of Michaelmas, which we celebrate alongside the seasonal occurrence of harvest time.

Through story-telling we explain spiritual truths that are far too complex for the lower school child to comprehend at their stage of consciousness development. Yet the archetype of the story sows seeds in the imagination of the child and this they take with them into adulthood. The spiritual truth held within the dragon play describes salvation, that is to say how we overcome the suffering and delusion in our lives and connect with a power which provides peace, joy and light.

As with many of humanity's greatest stories, the Dragon Play is a metaphor in its entirety.

The Dragon, which enslaves the villagers, represents our own 'inner demons', the beliefs we have about ourselves and life that do not serve us and limit the expression of our true selves in the world. Beliefs that create fear, anxiety and manifest behaviour's which self-sabotage, beliefs that do not reflect God's will for us (those versed with Anthroposophy would understand such experiences to be born out of the effect of Luciferic and Ahrimanic forces). The Dragon imposes itself upon the villagers, who are a picture of humanity, and sows fear and anxiety, the villagers experience helplessness. They only have one place left to turn, to St Michael. St Michael represents Archangel Michael, God's emissary, the archangel considered most like God himself.



Archangel Michael directs the villagers towards spiritual light, "sparks from my sword I send, that the dragon's power shall end" (sword=clear thought) . We see this manifest through the meteors as they fall to earth, the villagers receive this raw material and are now equipped with the "iron" that is needed to defeat the dragon. Here we can note that iron symbolises human strength, perseverance, honour, courage, sharpness of body and mind, and faith. It is that iron which is also in our blood and constantly pumping through our heart and around our bodies.

Continued over.....

Yet the meteors do not do the job alone. They represent the will of God, so how does this will manifest in physical reality? It does so through the thinking and deeds of mankind. The dwarves (elementals) represent the etheric earth forces and the process of transitioning something that is spiritual into something that can function within the physicality of earth as thought and thus deed (smithing of the swords). Because of the elemental world, and the swords that are gifted, the villagers are able to carry out God's will as earthly action and hence fulfill the manifestation of God's will for humanity...they "slay the Dragon". It is also significant to see here that the dragon wasn't defeated with the making of the weapon or through clear thought alone, it was ultimately defeated by the physical deed. Action is the universal language of physical reality.

What is left for the human being in the absence of the dragon within? A soul which is ready to embrace the Christed-self. This Self understands that the truth of each human being is not simply its mineral composition but that we are also super-sensible, spiritual beings. We could say Michaelic thinking allows us to break the over-identification we have with our physical bodies (materialism) and recognise ourselves as Holy.

So Michaelmas is a time to recognise our self imposed limitations of thinking and to call upon Archangel Michael's strength which we can use as a strength of vision, inner vision. So we may see and recognise that the delusions in our thinking can be forgiven and released as we develop a spiritual capacity for the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit seeks to exist within us and carries with it God's will, the will for your joy, peace and light to shine. Thus Michael supports us with the strength to carry out this will on earth, become our Christed-self and experience our true relationship to the world. This is certainly a challenge and involves overcoming our own darkness but it is a challenge we are divinely supported to undertake.

If you are in suffering there is indeed a way to turn, but in the freedom granted to you you always have a choice. To acknowledge the Michaelic revelation is to turn one's sight to the ultimate truth of who you are, a truth that can be found within. A truth that, when ensouled, will end human suffering.



Habits to help with this journey:

A striving for self-knowledge, purposeful work, purposeful rest, meditation, study, mindfulness, art and creative pursuits, play, forgiveness, gratitude, the experience of beauty, suitable nutrition, exercise, adequate and regular sleep, following inspiration, and all such things in intuitive balance.

Darryn Breakwell - Class 4 Teacher

Upcoming Events

March 16	6:30 pm - 8:00 pm	Autumn Festival Parent Evening - In Class 1
March 22	1:00 am - 3:00 pm	Autumn Festival
March 23	8:30 am - 12:30 pm	PhotoLife - IDs/Class/Individual Photos Taken
March 23	7:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Class 7 Parent Evening
March 27	5:00 pm - 7:00 pm	School Board meeting
March 28	9:00 am - 2:15 pm	Athletics Sports - Mitre 10 Park Hastings
March 29	6:00 am - 8:00 am	Whare Opening
March 29	6:30 pm - 8:30 pm	High School Parent Evening - Taikura House

Autumn Festival 2023

Dear Whānau

Nau mai, haere mai

You are warmly invited to join us for our Autumn Festival.

You are welcome to join your child for a picnic on the school field from 1:00 pm Wednesday 22 March to celebrate the season of Autumn.

Parents are asked to pack children an extra large morning tea on this day as lunchtime is at the later time of 1:00 pm. It is essential students have their sun-hats, and sunscreen is useful too.

The picnic will be followed by the Autumn play of Saint Micheal.

Lunchtime Picnic between 1:00 pm and 2:00 pm

Followed by the Saint Michael Play at approximately 2:15pm

Nau mai, haere mai

Warm regards Taikura Festival Group

Wet weather option

- No lunchtime picnic
- Play in the Gym – afternoon programme runs as above just in Gym not on the field



Harvest Table – a reminder to please send items into school for our harvest table, the content of which will be donated to grateful families in our community following the festival.



2023 Harvest Table - receiving donations now



Autumn Activities at Home

There is a huge range of activities which can be done with whānau to prepare for the Autumn Festival.

The simplest are regular autumn walks with your tamariki, noticing the changing of the trees in the neighborhood and garden.

Gathering seed pods and leaves as you walk is always a fun activity. On your return to home you could create with your found objects. A god's eye as pictured above, made with scraps of autumn wool or found autumn foliage. Or a conker dragon.



Another might be to shape your bread buns or loaf in the manner pictured - creating pumpkin shaped bread for some fun.



An autumn colored candle and bunch of autumn foliage brings a simple but festive touch to the home.



He pito kōrero!

Kīwaha o te wiki – Kīwaha of the week.

Tō kakama hoki! (Tor ka ka ma hor key)
You're sharp alright!

Tamati: Mōrena e hoa! Kai te aha koe? What are you doing?

Hina: I've just finished my assignment, so I'm going to the beach!

Tamati: Tō kakama hoki e Hina!

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



Kia hiwa ra! Kia hiwa!
Kia hiwa ra ki tēnei tuku,
Kia hiwa ra ki tēnā tuku,
Ko te 29 o ngā rā o Maehe, te rā kua whakarititia
Hei whakatuwheratanga mō

Te Manukura!

The building of our new Whare – Te Manukura is completed
and you are invited to the
Blessing: Wednesday, 29 March, from 6:00 am for the 6:30 am ceremony
followed by parakuihi – breakfast.

Please RSVP for catering purposes by 18 March to suzan.bart@taikura.school.nz

For those unable to attend, please feel welcome to come and visit our new whare
during the school day on Thursday and Friday 30 and 31 March

Fete Committee Meeting

Open for new members!

Let's make the Fete Great!

We are meeting at 7:00 pm **Monday 27 March.**

If you are interested please contact

Amber Wale on 021 2163 781 or email taikurafete@gmail.com

Ngā mihi - The Taikura Fete Committee

Taikura's First Pumpkin Growing Competition



Help support the Class 12 Geography students with Taikura's first pumpkin growing competition.

This event will take place at the Autumn Festival afternoon Wednesday 22 March

How To Enter

Please bring your pumpkins into the hall foyer where a table will be set up for your pumpkin. Pumpkins will need to be collected and taken home after the competition

We highly encourage the pumpkins that are entered to be homegrown. However, we do understand that if you do not have the space or time to grow your own you can purchase your own pumpkin for the carved or best dressed category.

There are three categories to enter on the day. Competitors can enter as many categories as they like however they need to provide a separate pumpkin per entry.

A gold coin donation is asked per entry.

If you are wishing to enter the largest grown pumpkin category you will need to grow your own pumpkin with the provided Giant Atlantic seeds from last year. A very big thank you to Liam for these wonderful seeds!

Categories

Biggest Homegrown Pumpkin

Best dressed pumpkin

Most creatively carved pumpkin.

Contestants' pumpkins will be grouped and judged based on the age groups below.

Fun prizes will be available!

Groups

Lower school students (Classes 5 and up)

High school (Classes 8 through to 12)

Staff & Community

Communication From The School Board

CONGRATULATIONS

Kia ora Taikura community

At our recent board hui our High School Academic Dean, Anne Hilton, shared a report containing the official results of the NZ Certificate in Steiner Education (NZCSE) pass rates across the different achievement bands for 2022. Anne reported that even though unfortunately 2022 continued to have Covid related disruptions and absences, which caused a lot of anxiety and stress among students, the pass rate results were very pleasing. Compared to past years, **2022 saw 100 percent pass rates for Level 1 and Level 2, and a 92 percent pass rate for Level 3.** This is a lift in pass rates, especially for Levels 1 and 2. We would like to particularly acknowledge the work of Sanne Coulthard, our High School SENCO (Special Education Needs Coordinator) for the amazing effort she puts into supporting students to achieve and for the extra resources and focus on students' needs. This is a wonderful achievement given the circumstances of the last three years. Thanks and acknowledgment to the teachers and specialist staff that pour their heart and soul into their work with our rangatahi. To the parents who spend hours outside of school supporting their children in so many ways. Lastly to our rangatahi. Without you, our schools would not exist. Well done to you for turning up each day and giving your best. We are proud of you.

Ko te pae tawhiti, whaia kia tata
Ko te pae tata, whakamaia kia tina

Seek out distant horizons and cherish those you attain

Rachel de Lacey - on behalf of the Taikura School Board



FLOOD FUNDRAISER



Sausage Sizzle and Bake Sale
Class 9 Social Studies is holding a waste-free fundraiser for the people volunteering to help out in the floods.

MENU

Sizzled Sausage \$2

Lemonade \$1

Cakes & Cookies \$1 - \$3

We have vegetarian, gluten-free and dairy free options for all our products.

DATE: Thursday 23 March at 12:30pm

Where: Outside the Edwin Ayre building,

However, if the weather is bad, we'll be situated in the canteen.

Caring Person Needed

Looking for a kind and caring person who would like up to 10 hours paid work a week supporting my son Andrew (44) who has Aspergers syndrome?

Tasks will be cleaning his small one bedroom house, cooking/food prep, keeping an eye on him and interacting with him while you are there. If he is willing, take him out and about too. Travel expenses available. Priority is connecting with him. His sister lives on the same property so would be there to guide you.

Please phone Romilly: 021 055 3921 or email: romilyjoy@gmail.com

Caring For People, Animals And Plants With Homeopathy

There are a range of homeopathic remedies that may help with the many emotions people are feeling at the moment - shock, grief, weariness and despair... Animals and affected trees are also struggling in some places. If you would like to discuss solutions that are available, please contact Angela Hair 0274436737

angela@concordia.co.nz

For Sale

Waterproof ski jacket and pants set. Men's size small. Colour is mostly grey with black. Excellent condition.

\$170.00

Email Nicki: nicola27@gmail.com

Mallows Driver Training

For all stages of learning to drive you will benefit immensely from taking some driving lessons by being more fully informed and so prepared for your driving test and future on road safety. Feel free to text or call **Martin** on **021 183 0862** for further inquiries.

Reiki Course 25 Saturday March

A great opportunity to learn a hands-on healing for family/whānau or our Mother Nature. Reiki is a natural energy healing technique. Reiki Level One for opening a connection to healing energy - will be held on Saturday 25 March. For booking, contact Shu. Email: shushimawalker@gmail.com or text 021 054 9035

New Moon Sound Bath For The Community

Sound Healing/Meditation with Crystal Singing Bowls for community in the New Moon evening on Wednesday 22 March. Cost: Varied \$25.00 (or Koha for people heavily impacted by the cyclone). The profit will be forwarded to the school canteen or to support whānau impacted. The facilitator, Shu is an ex-school parent. For booking, contact Shu. Email: shushimawalker@gmail.com or text 021 054 9035.

Garage Sale For Stable Hearts - Pakowhai Road

Hi Taikura family on **Saturday 25 March** we are having a garage sale starting at **8:00 am**.

There will be pretty much everything. All funds raised will go to **Stable Hearts Foundation** who lost everything during the cyclone, including eleven horses used for special needs children.

Where: 108 Mclean Street St Leonards Hastings

Thanks Emil and Ruby



RestOra

with Amanda Sowersby &
Aaron Gregory

It's time to shine

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

**Sunday 26th March
4pm-5.30pm \$35 Alma Studio
17 Joll Rd, Havelock North
Book: www.almastudio.co.nz**



Kia Ora Whānau

For those who do not know me, my name is Tara Lamb, you may know my children Mostar and Hazel Prince. I am starting a home base care for young children, between the ages of 0-6 years. After school care and holiday care is available on booking. My home is very convenient to Taikura School and other schools in Hastings. I am qualified and fully registered. I have been working with young children for many years now and I have come to believe that smaller family environments are much more beneficial for the very young child. The Steiner philosophy is very much a part of me as I was privileged to have graduated from Taikura in 1999. The beauty and goodness it brings to education is amazing.

If you need care for your little ones or know of anyone who does, please contact me or pass on my details. Phone **021 2604 992** or email tklamb40@gmail.com. **Limited places available.**

I look forward to opening my home for care from Monday 24 April 2023

Arohanui Tara Lamb