



Beltane

Beltane in the Southern Hemisphere would traditionally be on the 31 October - a night which over the years has seen more and more New Zealand children are out trick or treating, celebrating Halloween.

In ancient times Samhain, which in some countries has morphed into Halloween, marked the end of the harvest season. It is said during this time, the divide between our physical world and the realm of the spirit world is thinner. It is a festival that marks the beginning of the dark half of the year.

Halloween, when celebrated in New Zealand in October falls on the cusp of New Zealand's spring turning to summer, during this time we are surrounded by nature's growth and abundance. Below are some thoughts by David Urieli on the festival of Beltane and the season.



Beltane is mentioned in the earliest Irish literature . Also known as *Cétshamhain* ('first of summer'), it marked the beginning of summer and was when cattle were driven out to the summer pastures. Rituals were performed to protect cattle, people and crops, and to encourage growth. Special bonfires were kindled, whose flames, smoke and ashes were deemed to have protective powers. The people and their cattle would walk around or between bonfires, and sometimes leap over the flames or embers. These gatherings would be accompanied by a feast, and some of the food and drink would be offered to the nature spirits. Doors, windows, byres and livestock would be decorated with yellow May flowers.

From this we can see that there is some deep knowledge which is part of this festival. Cattle being driven between fires or around them could be seen as protective or healing. I suspect that leaping over the flames had no ritual purpose and was done for fun and very probably frowned upon as this is from a country (Ireland), which still has a strong connection with the elemental beings and where they have to be treated with care and respect. Further than the above it is hard to see what was intended. The old assertion that these were fertility rites really don't deserve to be given the time of day, as they come from people who had little imagination and far less knowledge. The early Irish, many of whom were responsible for the cultivation of knowledge in Europe and starting some of the first universities, cannot be accused of either.

Continued over

Perhaps one clue to the meaning of the fires could be given by the Irish round towers, some of which are called fire towers or bell towers. At one point there is thought to have been about 120 of these. They are stone towers about 20 to 30 metres high, and about 5 metres diameter at the base. They taper elegantly towards the top and are usually topped with a conical stone roof. Some people thought of them as bell towers, but this has to be nonsense as they are superb pieces of stonework and have neither suitable places to hang big bells nor suitable holes near the top to let the sound carry far and wide. They are not attached to churches and other buildings.

Some people think of them as places for people to take refuge in. This is a disastrous suggestion as a fire built around the base would soon either smoke or burn out people taking refuge in them. Others consider them to have been watch towers possibly built to take beacons that could be lit in chains across the country to warn of invasion. This also seems unlikely as, while some were built on hill tops, many others were built where they couldn't be seen from far. The most reasonable suggestion I have heard about them is that they were made to help establish the growing sense of personal identity that people had. This could also require the use of fire as fire draws attention to itself and strives upwards. It is also a great carrier of heat and for humans the warmth of the blood has to do with the individuality. Fire also reminds you of your individuality because while it is immensely useful, it can also be harmful if not carefully used. The Beltane fires could serve the same purpose to emphasise the individuality which can be called the human fire.

In a way Hallowe'en could be seen as the contrast to the Beltane. It is at the time of year when in Christian church tradition the dead are remembered. Fire is associated with death partly because of some traditions of cremation but also because it can be seen as a symbol of the spirit of the dead person rising with the flames into the heavens. Again, here the main part of the human being that rises to heaven is individuality or inner fire. Some think of Halloween as replacing the Celtic end of Autumn festivals. This may be so as most of the Christian festivals are set on or close to ancient festivals. This should not be seen as a cynical step by the church to take over the festivals for their own purposes of power but rather as a recognition of the early church leaders that the Celts and other ancient peoples understood things of value that belonged to particular times of the year.

The Breathing of The Earth

In the 1920s an Austrian geographer worked out that the earth breathes. This is because of the movement of the sun around the earth and if you manage to look at air pressure everywhere on earth and remove local conditions from your considerations you see the pressure as a wave moving around the earth like a breath.

For me as a child growing up in a latitude quite far north further north than anywhere south in New Zealand, the contrast between Summer and Winter was huge. In winter the plant life died down and disappeared to a large extent. The spinney (small forest) beside the house I lived in was a jungle in Summer where you could neither see through it or walk through it as the brambles, stinging nettles and other plants often grew over head height. In winter you could see straight through it and even through most of the trees which had lost their leaves. I always felt huge relief when Autumn came as it felt as if I could breathe again after the huge abundance and overwhelming growth of summer. Winter also felt like a time of rest with the sun rising at about 9:00am and setting by 4:00 pm in contrast to the Summer when it started to get light well before 4:00 am and got dark not much before 11:00 pm.

David Urieli



He Pito Kōrero!

Kīwaha o te wiki – Kīwaha of the week.

Me wawe atu tāua (meh wah weh ar too taaa eu wah)
We'd better hurry up!

Tamati: Ngā mihi o te ata e Rangi! What times our next lesson?

Rangi: It's in 5 minutes e hoa! Me wawe atu tāua!

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



Waiata Māi Thursdays – 12:30 – 1:00 pm - in the Whare Te Manukura

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

Waiata mai has started. Every Thursday in our Whare Te Manukura. 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

Sports Notices

Thank you to our coaches/managers who are taking our summer sports teams this term.

As always, your time volunteering in these roles is most appreciated.

This term we have cricket, volleyball, netball, basketball and waka ama teams.

- Netball-Rachel Chapman, Avah- Jade Maoate, Juniper Floyd
- Cricket- Michael Williams, Sid Trivedi, Jason Reidpath
- Volleyball-Manu Vilhena, Te Whiti Seeds
- Basketball- Disc Golf-Leon Crellin
- Waka Ama-Volleyball-Clayton Gibson
- Volleyball-Troy Gardiner

Janet Osborne - Sports Coordinator

"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.





Help support the students of Taikura with their annual pumpkin growing competition.

This event will take place on the Autumn harvest festival afternoon
Seeds are located at the front office and will be handed out to students at school

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 3 and up)
High school (Classes 8 through to 12)
Staff & Community



Ma te mahitahi, ma te whakapono, ma te whakamomori, ma te koakoa, ka taea e tatou!

By working and striving together, by believing and trusting, by patience and perseverance, by all being done joyfully, we will succeed!

Our wonderful fête is happening in just over three weeks! It's time to get busy.

Taikura fête Sunday 19 November 2023

Ka pai to all the whānau who have already made a commitment to help on the day! If you are not already rostered, please put your hand up for something as soon as possible.

We are still currently on the lookout for **Hair Braiders** to help with this Children's activity - please contact Elspeth Ross 021 0843 1387.

Let's get the rosters filled! Sign up to support your class food and activity now, ensure you know your mahi and are planning for the best delivery. Rosters have been shared by liaison parents.

Crown Making Workshop

The fête committee would like to warmly welcome whānau to join us at Taikura kindergarten for a weaving workshop to learn to create tīpare (Flax crowns). This is a workshop for adults only please. Come and learn a new skill as well as making some tīpare to be used for the fête.

Saturday 28 October.

9:00 -11:00 am at Taikura Kindergarten Family Room. Harakeke will be provided.

We look forward to seeing you here, any queries please contact Amber Wale 021 216 3781.



Taikura Fête 2023 Poster

The 2023 Taikura fête poster is included in the Grapevine attached to the back page. Please share this digitally, or print A3 or A4 (in colour if possible) and share it at your:

- * Workplace
- * Staff room
- * Local area facebook page or other interested groups
- * Sports club
- * Local Four Square notice board
- * Car window
- * Yoga studio, etc.

Share, share, share - let's spread the word and welcome the community to our wonderful fête!

Fête Signs are going up around town!



Thank you!

Thank you for the support received so far through fête billboard locations, the offer of a portable basketball hoop, graphic design from Louis Coyle, coconut research, sunscreen organisation, hamper donations, food donations, early roster fillers, parent liaisons, photography support, magical economy workers, etc! Many hands make light work - thank you!

Crafting

Please keep the wonderful crafting up! Some absolutely magical creations are coming though. Please drop completed crafts to the office. Here is a little inspiration for you...



Social Media

Our official Facebook page 'Taikura Rudolf Steiner School and Kindergartens' is now active, please like and follow for all the latest updates. Please find below a reminder of our policy regarding social media associated with Taikura. Platforms like WhatsApp, which are not public pages as such, are still considered social media, so any groups or chats which contain the name Taikura and discuss school-related subjects, need to be approved.

Community Social Media Guidelines

This policy applies to anyone using school-related social media.

Expectations:

Administrators and users of all Taikura social media accounts must use their best judgement when using school social media.

Posts and comments must be:

- polite and represent the school in a good light
- relevant to the school community
- consistent with relevant school policies (e.g. Privacy, Digital Technology and Online Safety, Harassment, Bullying).

Posts and comments must not contain or link to:

- abusive content, bad language, personal attacks, spam
- advertising (unless this is thanking a business for their support)
- identifiable images of a student's face (unless with relevant permission).

If users breach the conditions above, the post/comment may be deleted and the user may be blocked.

Administrators

Administrators of social media accounts must be currently associated with the school. If an administrator's association with the school ends, they must be removed as an administrator. A senior staff member will always be an administrator on the account.

Anyone setting up a social media page that is associated with the school must seek permission from the principal/board.

Administrators are responsible for:

- monitoring posts/comments regularly
- removing inappropriate posts/comments (and blocking users if necessary)
- documenting harmful content with a screenshot and removing it as soon as possible
- reporting inappropriate content to senior staff.

Concerns

We encourage parents to contact the school when issues arise. If you have a concern, please let us know before sharing negative personal views online.

Upcoming Events

November 8
November 19

6:30 pm - 8:00 pm
10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Community Gathering - School Hall
Taikura Fête

Save The Date

Community Gathering - Taikura. Our Choice

Come join us on Wednesday 8 November in the School Hall at 6:30 pm as we explore what nourishes and enhances our children and their journey at Taikura.

In this informal gathering - you will hear from Michelle Vette, General Secretary of the Anthroposophical Society and Nursing Practitioner, you will explore the wonders of Art, Speech and Drama, Eurythmy and Extra Lessons with experienced practitioners. This is a chance for our community to celebrate our choice in choosing this special education for our tamariki.

More information to follow next week

Special Character Governance Sub Committee

Casual Kindergarten Kaiako and Kindergarten Assistants Needed

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 - 3:00 pm (might be shorter), kindergarten term time only. We are looking for both qualified registered Kaiako as well as Kindergarten Assistant support. Please contact Danica Hensel Ondrusova at danica.hensel@taikura.school.nz.

Friday Market

Fridays at 3:00 pm Remember to bring gold coins and small notes on Friday

- Stalls will be ready to go at 3:00 pm in the courtyard outside Classes 1 and 2.
- If it's wet weather, you'll find them setup in the foyer.
- Make sure you bring small change with you.



Looking For A Host Family

My name is Carla Schlupe and I go to the Atelierschule in Zurich (Switzerland).

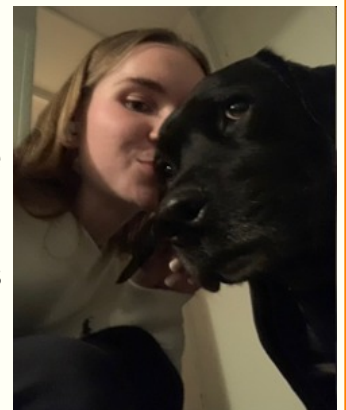
I would like to do a language exchange in Hastings with a peer between the summer and autumn holidays and am still looking for a host family.

I grew up with my three brothers in Solothurn, which is about 30 kilometers from Bern, the capital of Switzerland.

I am 17 years old and like to do things with my peers in my free time.

My address details:

carla@schlupe.org



Gardener Required

We are looking for a motivated and adaptable permanent part-time school gardener, or gardeners who may wish to job-share, to take responsibility for the general maintenance of our beautiful grounds and gardens at Taikura. Confidence in working with groups of students would be an advantage, but not essential. This position requires previous gardening/landscaping experience, seasonal planting knowledge and an interest in bio-dynamic practises. Starting date is negotiable.



This position may suit two school parents wishing to work ten to fifteen hours per week each. Please email suzan.bart@taikura.school.nz for a detailed position description.



**TARUNA
COLLEGE**
Connect, Nourish, Sustain

Supportive Therapies

11- 13 November 2023



As a nurse, therapist or caregiver we invite you to register for this three-day workshop focussed on practical, effective care and intervention strategies. Come and be a part of widening the circle of those offering supportive therapies in the community. Through our learning process, healing plants and external treatments will become familiar to you, preparing you to assess and safely work with the therapies based on a sound rationale.

In addition we introduce

- biography work
- the inner path of the nurse or therapist, and
- casework to help with individualised care across various situations and settings.

Cost: \$550 all materials, refreshments and lunch included

Tutors: Deborah Bednarek RN MN ANS and Michelle Vette RN MN ANS

We welcome your registration by visiting our website: www.taruna.ac.nz or contact us on 06 8777174

Bird Netting

Bird Netting by gold coin donation. Ex Vineyard, black or white.

Uses: Protecting new Seedlings, Brassica, Fruit trees, for berry houses or chock frames etc.

You will need to sort out your chosen length, discarding any holes, Bring a Stanley knife or similar.

The Fedges/bags of netting are by the gardeners shed.

Money raised goes towards our gardens. Questions to KAZ 027 334 9311

TAIKURA OUR CHOICE

AN EVENING EXPLORING THE NOURISHMENT
OUR CURRICULUM OFFERS AT TAIKURA

Introduction with
MICHELLE VETTE

Art with
CLAYTON GIBSON

Speech and Drama with
ROBYN HEWETSON

Extra Lessons with
RACHEL HUGHES

Eurythmy with
NIVES FIGERIO

Wednesday November 8th 6:30pm School Hall
Bring a gold coin koha In support of our Community Canteen





Taikura Fête

Rudolf Steiner School

Sunday
19 November
10am - 3pm



Follow us on facebook for updates