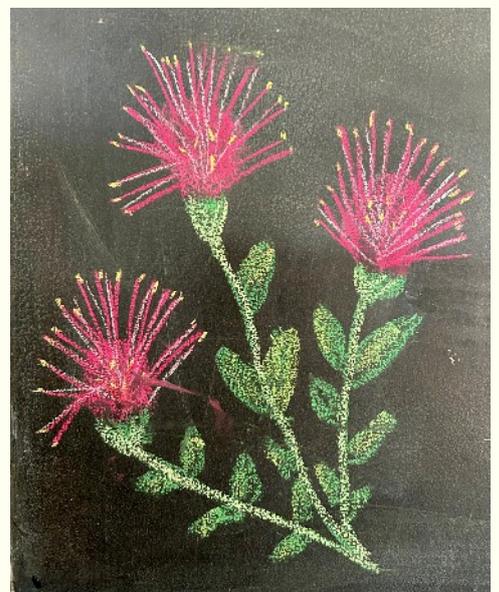


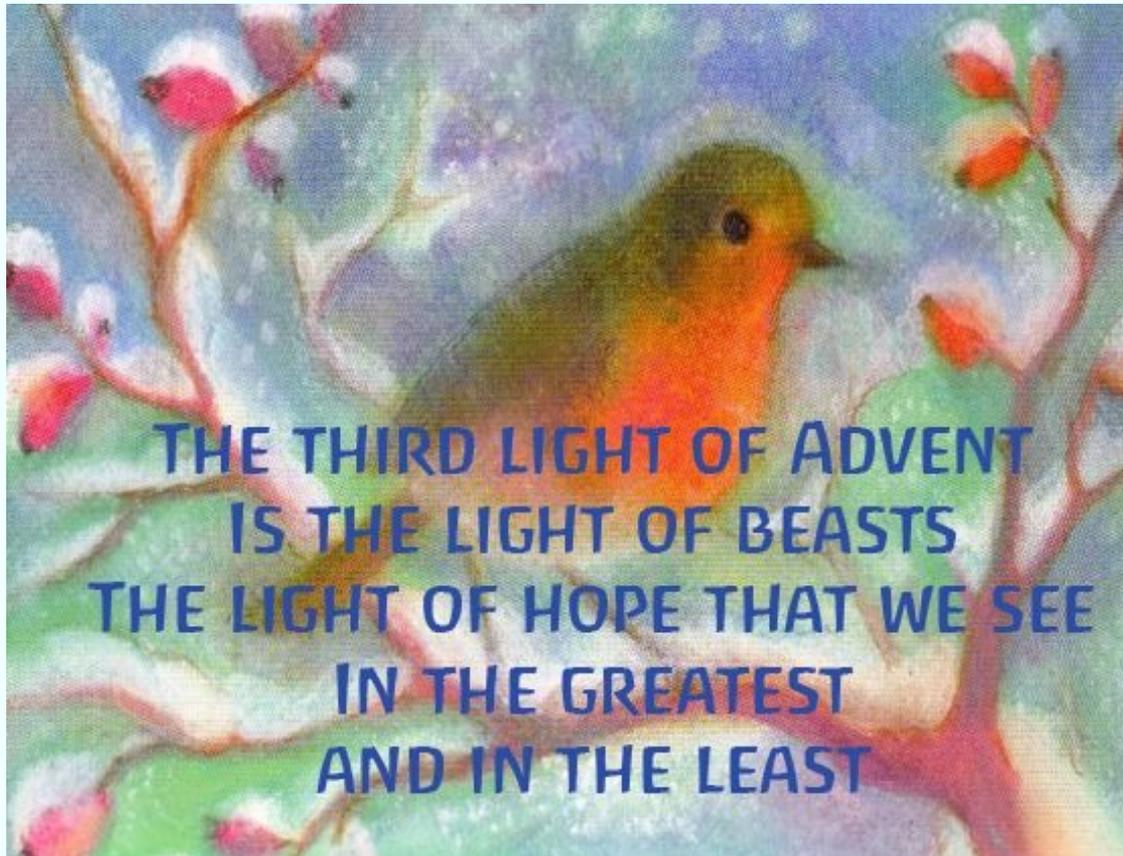


The Grapevine

12 December 2024

Advent Season at Taikura





**THE THIRD LIGHT OF ADVENT
IS THE LIGHT OF BEASTS
THE LIGHT OF HOPE THAT WE SEE
IN THE GREATEST
AND IN THE LEAST**

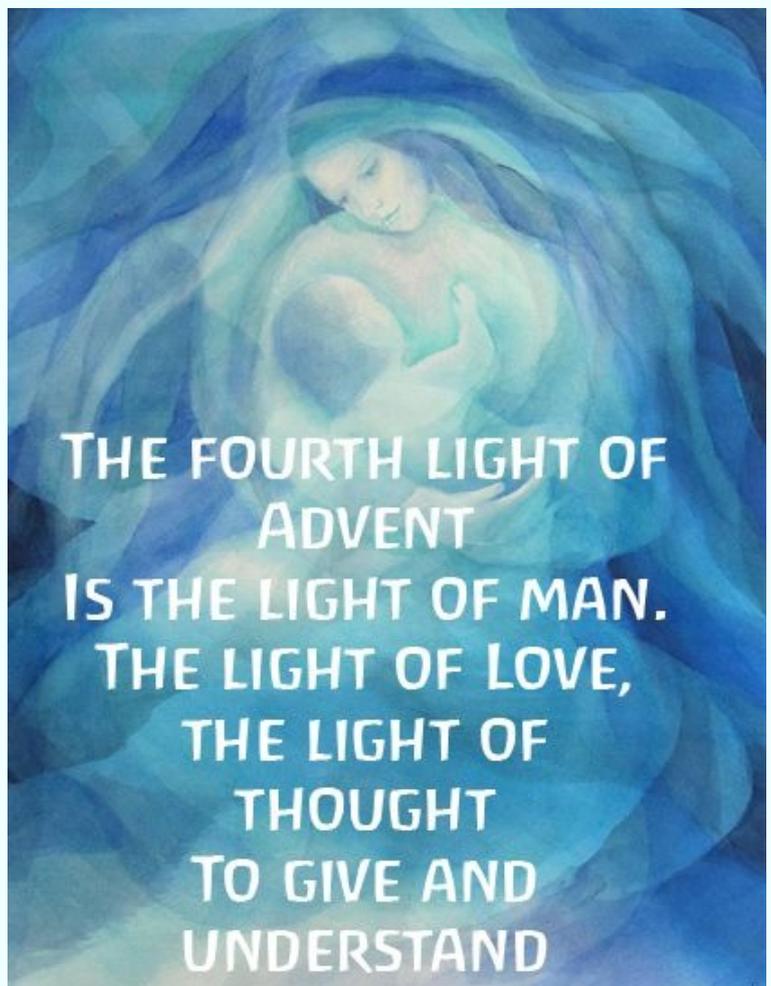
Community Carol

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains

Gloria, in excelsis Deo
Gloria, in excelsis Deo

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing,
Come, adore on bended knee,
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo
Gloria, in excelsis Deo



**THE FOURTH LIGHT OF
ADVENT
IS THE LIGHT OF MAN.
THE LIGHT OF LOVE,
THE LIGHT OF
THOUGHT
TO GIVE AND
UNDERSTAND**

Oberufer Shepherds Play - A Christmas Tradition



One of the most beautiful and meaningful celebrations of the Christmas festival is the study, practice and performance of one or more of the so-called Oberufer Plays.

In medieval times three plays were performed on Oberufer, an island in the Austrian Danube. Characters were played by members of the community who kept the same roles from year to year. Karl Julius Schroer published this play along with others in 1858. Sometime later, his student, Rudolf Steiner, edited the plays and set the language in the regional dialect, retaining much folk humour and liveliness. Around 1940, A.C. Harwood translated the plays into English, a challenge, given the obscure language, which is of course nothing like a true dialect. But it was a good solution to a difficult problem, and has become much beloved over the years. Steiner worked with an Anthroposophical musician named Leopold van der Pals for the music we use today.

The Shepherd's Play is one of these three plays that have been passed down to us. The Paradise Play, acting as a preface, presents the expulsion of Adam and Eve from Paradise, but with the promise of future salvation through Christ. The Shepherds Play portrays the birth of Jesus in a stable, where he is sought out by a group of shepherds. The Kings Play depicts the visit of three wise kings to the birthplace of the King of Humanity, as well as the murderous attempts by Herod to thwart Jesus' mission.

At Taikura all three plays have been performed, but it is the the Shepherds Play that has survived the test of time. It has been performed by teachers for over 60 years. In the fourth term, volunteers are called for from the teaching staff, and rehearsals (sometimes less than a handful) take place, the teachers relying on collective memory and words learned in previous years, or in some cases learned by osmosis from watching the play as children. The result is that the play is not always perfect, but always enjoyable.

Despite the lack of time, the importance of the play in our school calendar is not underestimated. The play is a gift for our children and to our school community and for many it sets the mood for the Christmas festival.

Clayton Gibson

Class 6 Speeches

Kia Ora whānau, I would like to acknowledge Class 6, all those that spoke, prepared and delivered their speeches. The class was given the task of choosing one of three topics; whānau, dreams or music, and writing a 3-5 minute speech to present in a controlled competition style. Cherie and Class 5 were an excellent audience and supported their tuakana, elder students, by being active listeners and participated when required. I was impressed with the behaviour and support of Class 6, seeing them be mature, supportive and hearing their depth, thoughts and inspirations. Tracy gives a shout out to all those that spoke and nice to have parents and siblings come and listen. There was an awesome amount of talent, our prizes were given to Poppy (1st), Mia (2nd) and Keala (3rd). A mention was given to Lena and Rani.

In Māori we say 'he aha te kai a te rangatire, he korero', the food or sustenance of a chief is his communicative abilities.

Kia Kaha and all the best being Class 7 in 2025. Look after each other and you will all blossom. Mā te wā, Matua T



He Pito Kōrero

Ngā mihi mahana o Tamanuiterā ki a koutou katoa, e te whānau!

As we arrive at the last weeks of te wāhanga tuawhā (Term 4), I find it to be a time of reflection, thinking about how our school year has flown by and that each one brings different things to ponder over, to remember and to celebrate. For the last He Pito Kōrero this year, I thought I would include common phrases and a karakia to bless your kai, that can be utilised for this time of the year...Christmas.

Christmas day	Te Rā Kirihimete
Wake up!	E oho!
Hurry up please	Kia tere mai
Let's unwrap the presents	Kia hura tātou i ngā taonga
Open it carefully	Āta huraina
Aren't you lucky!	Tō waimarie hoki!
Thank you for this present	Tēnā koe i tēnei taonga
Merry Christmas to you and your whānau	Meri Kirihimete ki a koutou ko te whānau
When are we eating?	Āhea tātou kai ai?
What should we do today?	Me aha tātou i tēnei rā?
Greetings of the season to you (1 person)	Ngā mihi o te wā ki a koe
And to you too!	Ā koe hoki!

Karakia hei whakapainga te kai – A verse to acknowledge the kai

E whakamānawa ana	We appreciate
Ki ngā ringa i whakatipu	The hands that grew
Ki ngā ringa i whakarite	The hands that prepared
I ēnei haupa	These foods
Hei kai mā tātou	For us all to eat
Haumi ē, hui ē, tāiki ē	We agree

I would like to thank all those who supported 'He Pito Kōrero', whether it was through the kōrero shared, articles for HPK, or the positive feedback given. I wish you all a restful and rejuvenating time over these holidays, together with your whānau and friends.

Kia haumarū ngā hararei!
Nāhaku noa, nā Matua Troy

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



Special Character Survey Summary

During Term Two we sent out a series of surveys to understand better what was important to our community. What about our Special Character was valued, and what aspects of our school life would benefit from being strengthened. We want to extend thanks to all who participated in the four surveys. The survey results, including comments, were used to establish a picture of what the school community was satisfied with, and felt a connection to, and for Taikura to identify areas which would benefit from being strengthened or extra attention given.

A highlight for staff was that throughout the comment sections in all four surveys overwhelming support, gratitude and celebration of our Waldorf/Steiner curriculum was evident.

Over 85 % of parents felt a good or very good connection with the Main Lessons, however a desire was expressed by a number of parents to be better informed in real time about which Main Lesson their child or young person was involved in. Reflection was also passed on that the Special Character understanding of why a Main Lesson is taught was not consistently expressed to whānau across the year levels.

This is an area which has been identified for development in 2025 and we will resurvey at the end of next year to see if improvements have been gained. Survey responses showed an almost unanimous request for us to strengthen the teaching of local history and local story within our curriculum.

Stronger representation of the relationship between our geography - our time and place - and our curriculum is asked for. Parents shared the desire for more local content which is relevant to and reflective of our community and tangata whenua in our curriculum. Below is one comment received which sums up the voice of many;

'Local history of tangata whenua from the voices and perspectives of tangata whenua. Delivered with respect and care, begin and integrate this teaching and learning in early lower school and throughout so that it is embedded and experienced as a valued and important kaupapa by the school (staff, board), for all tamariki.'

This voice resonates strongly with the curriculum work currently underway at Taikura and also for our Governors. We have acknowledged that to develop reciprocal relationships with local marae is an essential next step, particularly those we already have long standing connections to. It was wonderful to have confirmed that a high number of our whānau experience strong connection with events held at school. 88% of parents answered to feeling well or very well connected to our festivals and 83% to our community events. A suggestion in the comments section was to have our Community Assemblies timed at either the first part of or the end of the day, making it more accessible for working parents to attend. This is definitely an idea which will be explored during 2025.

Parental response demonstrated a sound connection to our camps, 71% of whānau felt well or very well connected to the camp experiences at Taikura - the comments section further thanked and talked about the wonderful and varied experiences which our students are offered. Comments also highlighted concerns from some parents about the high costs of some camps, and the challenges of these, at times unpredictable costs, in planning when budgeting. Management are currently exploring more family friendly ways of managing the paying of camp costs, please look out for a survey regarding camps and their payment over the coming days.

Survey responses indicated that woodwork and handwork were highly valued amongst parents and their children connected strongly with these subject areas.

Interestingly, the numerical results pertaining to eurythmy showed a weaker connection, however, all eurythmy comments indicated parents knew it was a subject of importance and unique to our special character but had questions about what it is exactly and, how does it work and benefit their child? Whānau can expect more information about and experiences with eurythmy during 2025.

Another theme consistently shared in the responses was the wish for more involvement with the wider community and community events as well as with other schools both Steiner, and local.

Survey results showed a general picture of positive connection between parents, students and school.

A general trend identified there is work to be done in developing more streamlined communication and sharing of information. Currently parents don't hold a wide understanding or knowledge of all the offered therapies and extra supports available to their children or awareness of any extracurricular activities. Strengthening communication is one of our current strategic goals so this mahi will continue to be prioritised next year.

Many thanks to all of those who took part in completing the survey, your feedback is greatly appreciated and will be used to guide our next steps in a number of areas.

High School Prizegiving

Taikura Award 2024 - *Milo Wade*

In recognition of an outstanding student who in their attitude and endeavour represents the ideals of Steiner Waldorf Education

Dux - *Kaito Wallis*

In recognition of Academic Excellence during the 2024 school year

Outstanding School Leadership - *Ian Bailey*

In recognition of leading by example

Class 12 Awards

High Achievement in Movement - *Sara Bruce-Gordon*

High Achievement in the Arts - *Sara Bruce-Gordon*

High Achievement in the Sciences - *Milo Wade*

High Achievement in Mathematics - *Christopher Deed*

High Achievement in the Social Sciences - *Ian Bailey, Kaito Wallis*

High Achievement in Technology - *Cadence Diedericks, Sara Bruce-Gordon*

High Achievement in English & Drama - *Ian Bailey*



Class 11 Awards

Certificate of High Academic Achievement - *Lucy Allison*

Certificate of Social Leadership - *Mika Moenchmeier*

Certificate of Consistent Effort - *Kate Caccioppoli, Liam Rousteau*

Class 10 Awards

Certificate of High Academic Achievement - *Moana Woods*

Certificate of Social Leadership - *Zahara Kizito-Rees*

Certificate of Consistent Effort - *Joshua Lee, Sita FitzGerald*

Class 9 Awards

Certificate of High Academic Achievement - *Grace Train*

Certificate of Social Leadership - *Sarah Stork*

Certificate of Consistent Effort - *Pagan Carrington*

Class 8 Awards

Certificate of High Academic Achievement - *Zoe Rousteau*

Certificate of Social Leadership - *Avah-Jade Maoate*

Certificate of Consistent Effort - *Nela Pulfer-Ridings, Fern Wynands*

Trades Academy

Te Toi Whakairo Level 3 - *Ashley-Rose Cooper*

Electrical Level 3 - *Chris Deed, Jacob Mawson*

Computer Technology Level 3 - *Joshua Dipper*

Automotive Level 2 - *Yudi Porter, Alba Valero-Ellis*

Building & Construction Level 2 - *Tuhina Harrison, Jack Peterson*

Hair & Beauty Services Level 2 - *Imogen Mackenzie Mapel*

Agriculture Level 2 - *Nico Theyer-Durham*

Hospitality Level 2 - *Sonne Allison*

Sport Skills & Coaching Level 2 - *Manu Vilhena*

Integrated Trade Skills Level 2 - *Jack Ludvigsen, Elliot Blakey*

Sports Awards

Taikura Sportsperson of the Year - *Tyler Bullivant*

In recognition of achieving 10 medals in Taekwondo during 2024

Special Recognition in Sport

Zahara Kizito-Rees

Taina Nogueira

Chris Deed

Avah-Jade Maoate

Outstanding Participation in School Sports

Yudi Porter

Zoe Rousteau

Tara Theyer-Durham

Volunteer Contribution to School Sport

Cadence Diedericks

Mika Moenchmeier

Nico Theyer-Durham

Ian Bailey

Zahara Kizito-Rees

Manu Vilhena

Class 12 Graduation Dinner







Kuripapango Class 8 Camp

What a week to be away from school. With temperatures soaring into the 30's I couldn't think of a better place to be than by the river. Although swimming and tubing in the crystal clear waters of the Ngaruroro River was amazing, the abundance of flies, sandflies and bumble bees created some dissatisfaction with camping in the outdoors.

The students had an opportunity to create atlatl, bow & arrow, spoon, and a macrame crystal necklace. The students were able to relax and unwind from their first year of being in the High School. Matt was able to catch a trout and Johnno managed to land another trout. Spotlight, werewolf, 3 sticks and possum stalking/hunting/scaring were our night adventures, I think this year the possums definitely won with them rummaging around the student's tents, keeping some awake. One possum even played tunes on some pots left outside a tent, my favourite possum story though was when some students were debating how to 'get' this possum in a tree, they then left it and it came down and was sitting on the ground, unbeknown to Kat who came along and scared it and it ran straight at the girls tent which completely freaked them out and we all heard about it! The camp was one of the highlights for me this year, due to the students, the activities on the river and just being able to sit in the shade and craft with them. I would like to thank Matt and Kat for being amazing parent helpers on this experience, and for Louis who was going to come with us trekking into Te Puia before the weather made us swap venues, and we had too many helpers for this site. I really appreciate your support.

Gee Reisima
EOTC coordinator



Thank You Morning Tea

Thank you to liaison parents and families of our kura. It was very heart warming to see the flood of goodies donated for the staff morning tea. Thank you so much for making the effort. For the baking, the goodies and the koha. The two boxes of goodies for staff were abundant and well received.

Thank you to the little team who set it up so beautifully. A message received from one of our staff:



"Thank you so much for organising the wonderful staff morning tea, we were very spoilt and it was so appreciated by everyone. The food was delicious and so nicely set out with beautiful flowers. Thank you for your kindness."



Lost Property



Please check our Lost Property cupboard under the external hall stairs before the end of term. Anything left behind will be donated to charity.

Community Notices

Dear friends of Florian Roger

You are all warmly invited to join Florian's family for a potluck morning-tea. Please bring something tasty to share.

Where: Rudolf Steiner Centre Hastings (401 Whitehead Road, Hastings.)

When: 10:00am Wednesday 18 December

After morning-tea all are welcome to join Rachel and Hamish in the garden to plant a rose for Florian, to give thanks for the time he shared with us, and to celebrate the things he loved in life.

Florian's sister Elodie, as well as mother Laurence, father Jean-Pierre and father's wife Chantal, will be in New Zealand from 12 to 31 December, and in Hawke's Bay from the 14 to 21 December. Elodie and her family have expressed a warm interest to meet the people who Florian shared his life with here in New Zealand, and to see and experience where and how he lived here. Elodie and family have also accepted invitations to visit the Christian Community church Rangimarie, the Weleda farm, Taruna College, Hohepa Clive and Poraiti, and the peak of Te Mata.

For some people this morning-tea may be the only opportunity to meet Florian's family. So please share this invitation far and wide! All friends of Florian are warmly welcome.

For anyone unable to attend, we invite you to join with us in spirit on the day, by finding a place to plant something that you love, and to remember Florian with us.

Any questions please either email Robin Bacchus at robin@bacchus.co.nz or call Hamish on +64 22 617 8577. If you would like to contact Elodie directly please contact Hamish who has her phone number

Gazebo Wanted

Class Two are hoping for a donation of a gazebo or free standing shade shelter for plants over the summer. We are very keen to keep the schools wee plants alive for next years fete. Please reach out to Michaela on 027 472542 via text (preferred).

Family Advent Festivals

The Christian Community welcomes you to join our family advent celebrations on the four Sundays leading up to Christmas at 9:00am for about 30 minutes, followed by morning tea and craft making. At Rangimarie, 617 Heretaunga St East. In this time of much outer activity it is a chance to find meaning and reverence as we prepare ourselves for the Christ Child to come at Christmas. It will include some advent songs much loved by children (and adults) and a story as we accompany Mary and Joseph on their journey. Please bring a treasure for the advent table each week:

15th December from the animal kingdom e.g. a wooden or felt animal or feather

22nd December from the heavenly kingdom e.g. a star or angel

Late afternoon/early evening on the 24th December we invite you to a Christmas play and perhaps picnic and a Three Kings play on January 6th. Time and details to be confirmed.

Please get in touch with Tania with any questions or to be part of our plays. ph 068761021 or 0210664908

Summer Rental Available

Tranquil tiny home available as a summer rental on an organic orchard in Havelock North for up to 6 weeks from 12 December! Two mezzanine bedrooms (king & single beds plus a foldout double sofa bed)! Excellent location near the Tuki Tuki River and only 5 minutes drive to the Village.

\$400 per week including bills and 2 week minimum stay!

Please call Sarinah on 0224139484 for questions and viewings (Taikura family)!

House for Rent

Three bedroom house and 2 acres available for rent in Elsthorpe. \$500 P/W Contact Toby 0273369286

Lost

Silver shackle bracelet. An important piece of special sentimental value which we would love to have returned to us!

Please contact Sander & Marcia sanderenmarcia@gmail.com or pass directly to Ijsbrand in Class Seven

Summer Dance

Saturday, 21st December 2024

4.30 to 6pm

Rudolf Steiner Centre Hastings



An afternoon of country dances with Helen Stonehouse and friends.
Traditional English Country dances.

These will all be carefully taught and no previous experience is needed.

No need to have a partner, there will always be someone to dance with.

No special footwear required, just shoes you can move in.

This is an afternoon for the young at heart, learn some country dances have some fun.

Bring flowers from your garden if you have some.

Including strawberries and cream

Recommended koha \$20