



The Grapevine

Advent Season

4 December 2025

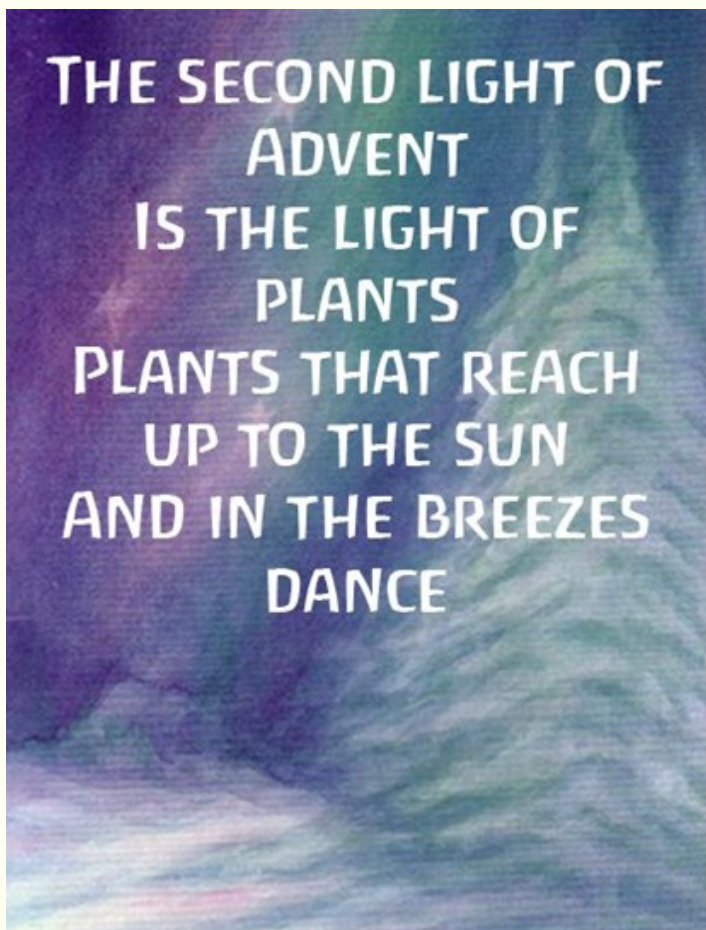
The idea of Christmas, for all intents and purposes in this modern age, often leads us away from what Advent is truly meant to guide us toward. Frequently called the “Silly Season,” it might more accurately be described as the “Stressed-out Season,” as we struggle to meet the demands placed upon us by society. To align more closely with the spirit of Advent, perhaps we could work toward making it the “Simple Season.”

Advent invites us to cultivate inner peace, to find quiet moments, turn inward, and transform the outer light into an inner radiance that we can reflect back into the world. We might call this light by many names, but at its heart, it is the choice to perceive goodness and mirror that quality in our own lives.

This “light” could be understood as Christ Consciousness, the enduring impulse of Christ toward humanity that continues beyond His earthly deeds and remains present for us to embody. From this place of being, with a willingness to live in that gesture, we can truly share the light of Advent with our whānau. When our tamariki are surrounded by our goodwill, composure, and warmth of thought toward others, we offer them the greatest gift possible.

So, amid the inevitable hustle and bustle of the season, let us seek moments of quiet peace. As we breathe, we can connect with and act from that quality within us, love, understanding, and goodwill. Through this, we may all be blessed with a grace of being that reveals the true value of simplicity during Advent and Christmas.

Darryn Breakwell



Community Carols

O Come All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him
Born the King of Angels!

O come, let us adore Him x3
Christ the Lord.
Oh Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Oh, come, oh come ye to Bethlehem

Come and behold Him
Born the King of Angels
O come, let us adore Him x3
Christ the Lord

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing.
O come, let us adore Him x3
Christ the Lord

Angels We Have Heard On High

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 new-born King.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo
Gloria, in excelsis Deo

Joy To The World

Joy to the world, the Lord has come
Let earth receive her King
Let every heart, prepare Him room
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and
nature sing
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns
Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy

He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of, His righteousness
And wonders of His love, and wonders of His love
And wonders, wonders of His love!

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
Glory to the new-born king
Peace on earth and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled
Joyful all ye nations rise
Join the triumph of the skies
With angelic host proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem
Hark! The herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born king

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings
Risen with healing in His wings

Mild He lays His glory by
Born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth
Born to give them second birth
Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the new-born king"

**Carol Evening Wednesday 17 December
at 6:00pm in the gymnasium**



He Pito Kōrero

Kua rongō kōrero, kitea rānei koe...? Have you heard or seen...?



KŌRERORERO

Learn Te Reo Māori

E kare mā, have you heard or seen the AUT Kōrerorero app, that you can download on your kawe kōrero – cell phone, to support your journey learning te reo? It's been around for a while. The app has short kōrero in familiar settings, that have easy fun ways to learn, build on, and reinforce new reo while being able to listen to kupu or phrases again and again. It's tino rawe - awesome!

Kīwaha o te wiki ... kīwaha of the week!
Ko tāua tahi tēnā! (Kor taar euw ah tar he teeh naah)
That's us/count me in as well!

Hemi: I'm thinking of going for a dive on Sunday, to get some kaimoana!
Rangi: Ko tāua tahi tēnā e hoa!

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



Upcoming Events

- Class 5 play performance** - TONIGHT 4 December at 7:00pm
- Last day for Class 9** - Friday 5 December
- 9 year old change workshop** - Sunday 7 December
- Splash Planet Road Patrol outing** - Monday 8 December
- Class One 2026 whānau hui** - Wednesday 10 December at 6:00pm
- Class 8 project displays & speeches** - Thursday 11 December
- Last day for Class 8** - Friday 12 December
- Last day of term** - Wednesday 17 December - 12:30pm finish
- Carol Evening** - Wednesday 17 December at 6:00pm

Staffing Update

We are delighted to announce that Ms Charné Cloete has been appointed as Class 4 teacher from the start of 2026, and Ms Tanja Maioha has been appointed to teach Class 5 for 2026. Letters including further details have been shared with whānau. Please find their introductions below.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Karyn Wills for the additional teaching load she has carried this term—her dedication and support have been greatly appreciated.

Kia ora koutou,

My name is Charné Cloete and I am excited to be joining the team. I am passionate about creating a nurturing, calm and creative learning environment where tamariki feel confident, valued, and inspired to explore the world around them.

I am drawn to Steiner education for its holistic approach, its celebration of the arts, imagination, and the rhythms of childhood. Building strong relationships with students and whānau is at the heart of my teaching, and I look forward to growing alongside this community.

Outside of school, I love spending time outdoors with my family, camping, riding bicycles and enjoying nature together. I am grateful for the warm welcome and look forward to an inspiring year ahead.

Ngā mihi nui,
Charné



Dear Parents of Class Four 2025,

It is my pleasure to announce that for the duration of 2026, I have been appointed once more as facilitator and teacher of this wonderful group of individuals namely, Class Four 2025 -your children.

I have been fortunate to have had continued contact with them in a part time capacity filling in here and there for teachers' release time as well as taking them for regular painting lessons on Monday mornings.

I will endeavour to do my best by this class again and look forward to sharing Main Lessons, Music, Art, Drama and all good things that make up a healthy Waldorf classroom.

See you in the New Year 2026.

Best Regards,
Tanja Maioha.



Chickenpox

Quite a number of our Lower School students, particularly in classes 1 and 3, have been diagnosed with chickenpox during the last few weeks. Chickenpox is a common and highly contagious illness, especially among children aged 2–10 years.

What to look out for

Chickenpox often starts with a mild fever, followed by red, itchy spots that usually appear 1–2 days later. These spots typically begin on the face and scalp and then spread to the chest, back, tummy, arms, and legs. Before the rash appears, your child may show early symptoms such as:

- Headache
- Runny nose or cough
- Loss of appetite
- Feeling tired

The spots turn into fluid-filled blisters, which later crust over. Your child is contagious from five days before the rash appears until all blisters have dried and no new ones are forming.

What to do if your child has chickenpox

- Keep them home from school until all spots have scabbed over and dried (usually 5–7 days).
- Avoid social contact with other families during this time.
- Keep them comfortable:
- Offer plenty of fluids and soft, bland foods if mouth spots make eating difficult.
- Trim nails short and use mittens or socks to prevent scratching.
- Dress in loose-fitting clothes and change bed linen daily.
- Cool or lukewarm baths with oatmeal or baking soda can help soothe itching.
- Calamine lotion may also help.

Lost Property

A reminder to please check the lost property cupboard under the external hall stairs before the end of term.

Any items not collected will be donated to charity during the school holidays.



Employment Opportunity

High School Teacher Aide

We are seeking applicants for a Teacher Aide. This position is working with teachers and students in the High School for 27.5 hours per week Monday to Friday (term time only).

Applications close at 3:00pm on 15 December 2025

Please send applications with CV and covering letter to: suzan.bart@taikura.school.nz

Our Kids Online

4 Game-Changing Books For Parents

If you're raising kids in the digital age, these four books are absolutely essential. From screen addiction to brain development to anxiety and resilience, these titles will give you the science, the strategies, and the clarity every modern parent needs.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hYwy3wTBfhk>

Sports News

Many thanks to all coaches and managers supporting Term 4 Taikura school sports teams.

Basketball - Ian Foxcroft, Louis Skipper, Angela Binns, Carolina Dalmazzo, Chloe Napier

Volleyball - James Ostergren, Mandy Ostergren, Zahara Kizito- Rees, Troy Gardiner

Cricket - Michael Williams, Sid Trivedi

Netball - Keala Fraser, Lena Feldmann, Regan Stott

Waka Ama - Clayton Gibson, Linda Hill-Rennie



These teams wouldn't happen without all the volunteer help!

In 2025 we have had a 14 % increase in sports participation from our high school students which is a positive step, we had a decrease post Covid and the cyclone, so we are happy to get the numbers up again.

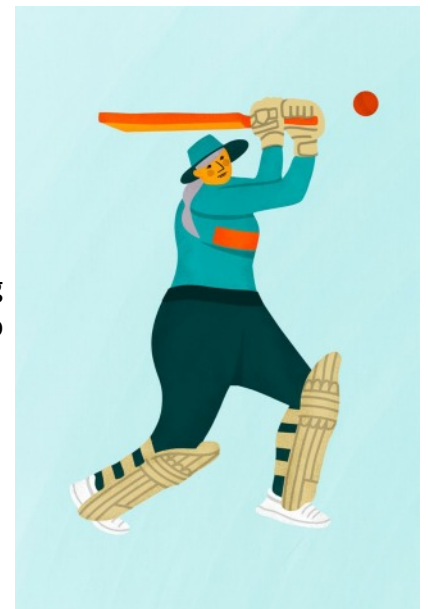
Thank you also to Kelly Sutton, Amaali Shaw, Amber Wale Jimmy Scott, Tania Diedericks and Mandy Ostergren for putting time into building other sporting opportunities for Taikura students such as futsal, tennis, pickleball and cricket.

Congratulations to our Class 7 and Junior girls volleyball teams , who both won their divisions on Tuesday night at the volleyball finals.

1st place for both teams is a great result!

Once again thanks to James and Mandy Ostergren for coaching and managing the class 7 team and to Zahara Kizito- Rees for coaching the Junior girls and to Troy Gardiner for being the team manager and umpire.

Janet Osborne
Sports Coordinator



Community Noticeboard

Steiner School Art - Curriculum Adult Learning

2 Year Course (via Zoom)

Starting January/February 2026. Working with the colours through wet on wet painting, Goethe's colour theory, pencil drawing, form drawing and much more.

Love to hear if you're interested. Message Margaret-Mary Farr on 027 248 4193 or email

Art Display at the Steiner Centre

The month of December is Jill Norman (Beadbugs - local artist) - Creations from Wire & Beads - Bugs, Trees, Hearts, Dragonflies, Grape, Garden & Fish Wall hangings - get something unique for Christmas.

School Holiday ART
DECEMBER 15-23
& January 26-30

www.michalk.co.nz Suitable 6+ Michalk

The poster features a collage of images: a person in a red shirt and blue shorts holding a large bouquet of flowers, a white angel figurine, a colorful dragonfly, and a white t-shirt with colorful patterns. The background is a blue sky with palm trees.

HORSE RIDING SUMMER HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

Mon 12th - Fri 16th January

Mon 19th - Fri 23rd January



A hands-on horse riding programme for all levels. Build confidence, connect with horses, and enjoy the great outdoors. No experience needed!

Booking options: One-day | Multiple days | Full week

Location: Clive, Hawkes Bay

Contact: Julia

Phone: 027 822 3185

The Lawn
EQUESTRIAN

Coffee and Conversation

At the Steiner Centre across the road from Taikura. Mondays from 8:30am, Fridays from 1:30pm. Starting 9 February 2026.

Room to Let

Room available to rent in lovely semi rural location, only five minutes drive to Hastings. Shared facilities. Text Tracey on 0279180097 for more information.

SAVE THE DATES 10 -12th JANUARY 2026

Social Eurythmy Course

Eurythmy Aotearoa is bringing the highly skilled and experienced, Goetheanum accredited Social Eurythmy trainer Teresa Mazzei to New Zealand to run an introductory, three day Social Eurythmy course.

WHEN - January 10th - 12th 2026

WHERE - Michael Park Steiner School, Auckland.

COST - \$250

WHO CAN ATTEND - This introductory course is designed for qualified eurythmist's and fourth year eurythmy students, and individuals with a strong interest in exploring the application of eurythmy in workplace settings.

To register your interest, write to Sue Simpson
eurythmyaotearoa@gmail.com

“This was, without a doubt, one of the most transformative, impactful experiences of my life.”

— Tracks Youth Participant —

rites of passage FOR TEENAGERS



GOLDEN BAY
AOTEAROA,
NEW ZEALAND



Across cultures and throughout time, communities have honoured the shift from childhood into adulthood, guiding young people through this transition with care, ceremony, and connection.

Tides and Tracks are two contemporary rites of passage programs:

- **Tides** for girls aged 14–17 and their mothers/caregiver
- **Tracks** for boys aged 14–17 and their fathers/caregiver



Rites of Passage
Foundation
INSPIRING YOUNG PEOPLE

Each 5-day journey follows the arc of a rite of passage: separation, transformation, and return, supporting young people to mark a significant life transition and be witnessed as they step into young adulthood.

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

5 DAYS FULL IMMERSION

January & April 2026



MORE INFORMATION



Rites of Passage Foundation



ritesofpassagefoundation



www.ropf.org.nz



info@tracks.net.nz



ANNUAL FAMILY CAMP

MANGATEPOPO, TONGARIRO NATIONAL PARK

January 6-11 2026

BOOKINGS

Registrations for our 2026 Summer Camp are open - spaces are limited so please book your space to avoid disappointment.

DAILY RHYTHM

Each year we offer separate programmes for little children, young children, youth and adults.

We begin and end each day with a circle including games, singing and an ongoing story. Morning and evening services deepen our spiritual striving and devotional life. Together we build and strengthen our community and connection with daily work, play and devotion. We prepare and enjoy organic and biodynamic foods.

Tongariro is renowned for its beauty and diverse outdoor activities including walks, waterfalls, hot pools and swimming holes.

**All inclusive costs per person;
Adult \$450; 10-17 yrs \$300; 5-9 yrs \$250; Up to 4 yrs \$75**

Camp Account: The Christian Community 03-0259-0165146-05

INFORMATION: Hartmut Borries hartmutborries@gmail.com 021 259 8555

BOOKINGS: Cheryl Prigg cheryl.n.p@gmail.com 021 0232 0932