

Taikura Rudolf Steiner School

The Grapevine



The Autumn Festival

19 March 2026

The Autumn Festival came about because Steiner felt that there should be a 4th festival in the year in keeping with the four Archangels who guide the four seasons. For a long time in the northern hemisphere we have had Christmas, Easter and St John's. To this Steiner wanted to add Michaelmas. These have their counterpart in the Matariki festival, the Spring festival, the Christmas or midsummer festival and Autumn (Easter) festivals here in the Southern Hemisphere. Steiner describes how in the Summer we can feel carried up into the warmth and sunlight in a sort of warm daze and he says that then we become particularly open to the call of materialism. We have to fight this going into the Autumn and help is given to us by the Archangel of the Autumn, St Michael whose sword is forged of meteoric iron brought by the Summer shooting stars.

There are two major meteor showers (times for spotting shooting stars) near midsummer: The Geminids around 14 December and the Quarantids around 3 January. As Autumn approaches this is a time for turning inwards to our inner life and taking stock of things. Personally as a child I always found the brightness and growth of the Summer rather overwhelming though they are far stronger here in New Zealand than the South of England where I grew up. There I longed for the Autumn dying away of nature and softening of the sun. Once Autumn came I felt I could start to breathe properly again.



Steiner wanted a new festival of Courage where the dragon of materialism in which fear, hate and doubt can grow could be fought with the aid of the mightiest of the Archangels who battles the dragon of materialism. Our age of materialism has been brought in externally by the development of an incredible technology initially principally based on earthly steel. Where this has led to fear, hate and doubt it can be fought with the symbolic aid of cosmic steel. The sword of St Michael forged of Meteoric Iron. We live in a world which needs our courage, faith and love more than ever to combat the many forms of fear, doubt and hate. I once visited one of the German Steiner Schools to see how they were celebrating the Autumn festival of St Michael. This school had set up trials for the four elements in which the students could take part. They had a trial by water which was going through a tunnel with water spraying into it at various stage. Then further along there was a trial by fire where the tunnel seemed to end in a big bonfire and it was only when you got fairly close to the fire that you saw a way out to the side. Their trial by earth was climbing a big rock (of course duly strapped to a harness) and their trial by air was being flung high up into the air strapped to a harness on a line hung between very high points on two trees. These celebrations were shown in an outward manner but Steiner wanted the festival to be that of inner battle.

I really appreciate that our Autumn festival of St Michael shows the dragon being defeated under the guidance of St Michael by use of meteoric iron. Steiner said that he was not told to stop materialism or to fight technology but that he must enter into the dragon's skin. This symbolises a transformation of materialism that stems from the corruption of fear, doubt and hate by means of the qualities of courage, faith and love.

'There is a knighthood of the 20th century whose members do not ride through the darkness of physical forests as of old, but through forests of darkened minds. They are armed with a spiritual armour and an inner sun makes them radiant. Out of them shines healing – healing that flows from a knowing of the image of the human as a spiritual being. They must create inner order, inner justice, peace and conviction in the darkness of our time.'



He Pito Kōrero!

Kua rongō kōrero koe...? Have you heard ...?

Kia ora e te whānau! Have you heard, that this Sunday at the Ātea-a-rangi at Waitangi Regional Park, there is a celebration of Te Whakawhitinga o te Rā o te Ngahuru | Autumn Equinox. All are welcome to join the roopu at dawn (6:15 am) with karakia, kōrero from our locals who work in te taiao and the viewing of the sunrise. There will be a hot drink & kai afterwards.

At this time of year Tama-nui-te-Rā rises exactly on the Eastern Pou whitinga – true East, marking the Autumn Equinox, and set exactly on West. When day and night are equal!



Kīwaha o te wiki ... kīwaha of the week!

Māti ana! (Mar tee ah nah)

It means to be satisfied or to have had your fill, especially when finally eating a food you have been craving.

Hemi: Kia ora e hoa! I've just harvested our kūmara crops! We got heaps, so I'll be sharing them with the whānau!

Pani: Māti ana e hoa! Kūmara is my favourite kai!

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



Waiata Mai Every Thursday 12:25 - 12:55pm!

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

Every Thursday in our whare, Te Manukura, you can learn some of the many waiata that your tamariki sing at kura! Nau mai, haere mai te katoa...all are welcome!

Ngā mihi ki a koutou ngā kōpara e kō!

Te Waru

As the first fruits arrive, much ripening is taking place in nature. In Hawke's Bay we are blessed by this abundance. The sun's warmth is captured and stored in this blessing.

In Aotearoa amidst this abundance, scarcity is present too. On the left there is a bowl overflowing with abundance and the other empty. In Aotearoa, scarcity goes hand in hand with First Fruits, Lammas and Lughnasad. In Europe, between summer solstice and autumn equinox, the grain is ripe. From the first cutting, traditionally loaves of bread are brought into sacred space, to be blessed and tasted.



In Aotearoa, however, the kumara is still in the ground, as it needs a longer time to grow. And so Māori traditionally had to conserve what they had while waiting for the harvest. In Te Ao Māori, Te Waru is the name for the eighth lunar month, a name that is linked with scarcity. Being in Aotearoa it is good to consider the question - How do these contrasts affect our celebrations during this time?

You may choose to celebrate abundance, or you may choose to include scarcity.

Taken from Juliette Batten's Newsletter, First Fruits. February 2018

Juliette is a New Zealand author who explores ritual and celebration within a New Zealand context.

Kelly Sutton

Our Kids Online - Tip of the Week

Parents Guide to Movies and TV

Not sure if a movie or TV show is age-appropriate for your child?

Before they watch, check:

IMDB Parents Guide – detailed breakdowns of violence, language, sex, and more.

Common Sense Media – reviews, age ratings, and what to talk about after the credits roll.

Know what they're watching — and make informed choices that fit your family!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7sJDE0kRZH0>

Upcoming Events

Class 5 Parent Hui - TONIGHT at 6:15pm

Taikura Kindergarten Harvest Festival - Friday 27 March

Term One ends - Thursday 2 April at 2:45pm

Class 4 Parent Hui - Wednesday 22 April at 6:00pm

ANZAC Day observed - Monday 27 April - School & Kindergarten Closed

School Board Hui - Monday 11 May at 5:00pm

Sports News

And that's a wrap!! What an epic end to an epic **Junior Surf** season team. Hawke's Bay Junior Champs was a great way to finish. Thank you to all those involved, athletes, parents, whānau, officials, lifeguards, IRB crews and safety officials... we are extremely grateful to you all! Heaps of ribbons were won in the younger age groups, and heaps of fun was had - we hope to see you all again next season.

Congratulations to Johanna Moenchmeier on a Gold medal win and Freida Campbell on winning Bronze.



Our U16 Boys and U19 Girls **Waka Ama** teams competed in the Heretaunga Secondary School Waka Ama Sprints on 7 March at Pandora Pond. The U19 Girls Came 3rd in the 250m Sprints and 4th in the 500m turns race. It was the first sprint race for the boys and they met all of the goals that were set for them placing 8th in the 500m turns race and 9th in the 250m sprint race.



Community Noticeboard

Missing Wheels

A green scooter went missing from outside Edwin Ayre last week. If you happen to come across it in another part of the school, or your child has inadvertently mistaken it for theirs, please let the office know.



These two bicycles have been at school for over 2 weeks. Do they belong to your whānau? Please come and collect them before they disappear...