



The Grapevine



Ngā mihi o te Kirihimete - Christmas Greetings

As we finish the school year, it is important to understand that we are in the season of Advent as we lead up to Christmas. Advent is the period of four Sundays leading up to Christmas. It is actually a time of preparation for a new beginning. A time of anticipation for the coming of the Christ Child – a time of rebirth and newness.

This should be a time of quiet reflection and consideration, but with the end of year in the Southern Hemisphere leading into a summer break as well as the manic 'silly season' it can be very challenging to find that calm space for introspection.

The preparation leading to Christmas time is a time of joy and excitement for everyone, young and old alike. As we go through this time, let us go gently. Let us keep the balance of excitement in check so that we do not tip over into frenzy. Let us take some quiet time to consciously connect with ourselves, with each other and with the spirit of the season so that we can enjoy and grow in this time in love, in understanding and in peace.

All of us here at Taikura wish our entire community a very calm Advent, a very happy Christmas and a peace-filled new year.

*"Christmas began in the heart of God.
It is complete only when it reaches the heart of man."*

Pax Christi

Carmel Spencer
Principal

TERM DATES FOR 2017

Term 1:	Monday 30 January High School - 13 April end of term Tuesday 31 January Kindergarten Wednesday 1 February Lower School (6 February Waitangi Day)
Term 2:	Monday 1 May - Friday 7 July Anzac Day 25 April Queens Birthday 5 June
Term 3:	Monday 24 July - Friday 29 September
Term 4:	Monday 16 October - Tuesday 13 December HB Anniversary 20 October Labour Day 23 October

SCHOOL NOTICES

Staffing Updates 2017

Anna Follett – has been appointed as our new Geography teacher. Anna has been working at Napier Boys High School. Roger Stonehouse has kindly agreed to accompany Anna on some of the Geography trips to assist with a smooth transition.

Darren Breakwell – has been appointed as co-teacher for Class 4 next year with Kelly Sutton. Darren has a strong connection to Steiner education and to Taikura having worked here previously as a teacher aide and assisting in the kindergartens. Now as a fully qualified teacher, we are delighted to have someone of his calibre join our school.

Morag Wilson has been appointed as a teacher of English and Mathematics in the High School after having helped out this year. Morag retrained in 2015 after a break from teaching and we are very lucky to have such a versatile staff member in the High School.

Sue Hull will be taking Class 1 again next year with Clayton Gibson taking Class 2 from next year. Clayton has handed over his children from Class 7 to the High School and we are delighted to have him join with these children in Class 2.

We are currently seeking a part time person for SENCO (Special Education Needs Coordinator) in the Lower School and we are likely to be able to announce an appointment in late January.

Carmel Spencer - Principal

Dear families - another reminder

This year we have used up record amounts of photocopying paper, in particular printing the Grapevine and we would like to reduce this cost to our budget and to our environment. Our request to hear from families who prefer to view this from our website has received limited response and therefore next year we will make a different request, we will be asking you to please let us know if you do wish to have a paper copy provided to you (which we are very happy to do).

We hope to be able to provide a link to the Grapevine via our student management system next year, however this will only accommodate families with children at school. Hopefully this will remind you to have a read through this regular and important communication.

Parent Handbook 2017

We are also making a slight change to this resource. Families will receive the handbook early in 2017. This resource will remain current throughout 2017 and beyond. Separately you will receive an in-house produced booklet including names, addresses and telephone numbers of our families.

Please can you let Adrienne know as soon as possible any changes in address, contact phone numbers and email addresses. This list will be finalised very early in Term 1 from our student management system – we hope that this way we will reduce errors. The best way to advise the office of these changes is via email to office@taikura.school.nz.

On behalf of the team at the at the office I wish you all a wonderful Christmas, some joy in your summer holidays and look forward to meeting with you again in 2017

Many thanks - Vanessa van Kampen

SCHOOL NOTICES

Class 12 Graduation 2016



Class 12 along with their families would like to thank everyone for making the graduation evening at Sileni such a wonderful event a special thanks to their past class mates for coming along to celebrate this occasion and also a big thanks to Andy Tait Jamison and Pat Hura for giving their time freely with the awesome band.

Fête Update

We are very pleased to report that the Taikura Fête was able to gift \$22,000 for the school this year. Thank you once again to the whole community for all the work that went into creating this fantastic event, we are looking forward to doing it all again next year!

Please if you have any feedback or questions no matter how small we would love to hear from you, just email us at taikurafete@gmail.com.

Seasons greetings from Suzan Bart, Rosheen Fitzgerald, Bekkie Taylor, Kylie Vanston and Brad Friis.

Congratulations:

Class 7 DJ girls volleyball team for winning their Volleyball grade this term. Well done and thanks to Elliot Ryan for coaching.

Class 8 and 9 girls volleyball team who played a great game in their final last week. They finished runners up in their grade for the season. Thank you to Te Whiti Seeds for coaching the team.

Class 7 boys cricket team who had a fantastic season in the Division one Intermediate grade, another successful term of cricket. Thanks to Troy Wathey for his coaching.

Thank you to all 17 students who participated in the Tri HB event last week. Everyone competed with enthusiasm and good spirit. Well done to the team of Drew Porter, Orla Jefferson and Tia Gardiner for coming 1st in their section.

Wishing everyone a fantastic and relaxing holiday break.

Greetings Janet Osborne
Sports Coordinator

SCHOOL NOTICES

The School Wishes to Farewell:

Roger Stonehouse

Roger joined our school twelve and a half years ago in July of 2004. Over the years at Taikura Roger has been involved in a great many aspects of school and community life. Music has been a big part of that and there have been numerous groups he has been a part of including appearances in many of the Shepherds Plays.

Sport is another area where Roger has made a massive contribution. Over the years he has coached cricket, golf, volleyball and badminton. In his teaching role he has run many wonderful camps and has a wonderful gift of organisation with these as well as making them relevant to the students development and learning. He has established, built up, developed and maintained our IT department, improving our use and understanding of technology for staff and students. His teaching areas have extended with the inclusion of Geography and this is now a strong subject area in the High School which many students love, enjoy and succeed in.



Roger's plans for the future are that he is open to whatever comes along. His business is expanding and keeping him busy with its potential and he is looking forward to doing lots more music. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Roger for all of his wonderful contributions to Taikura, for everything he has given to the students, the staff and the community and to wish him all the very best for the next chapter in his journey.

David Jordan

David picked up his class of approximately 10 children in Class 2. These children had been in a home-school group taught by Johnny Ryan at Mangarau Kindergarten as the Class 1 at Taikura was full.

Seeing the need for another class, the school started a second stream Class 2 with the faith that the children would come, and with David as the Class Teacher the children did come and within a year he had a full class.

David always has beautiful artwork created by the children, creatively displayed and he had a giant sand box in his room; This box contained an ever-changing 3-dimensional, creative display based on whatever Main Lesson that was being taught at the time. David very rarely became flustered and he was able to take a group of children who had come from a variety of schools and educational environments and mould them into a harmonious class. It was great to see the progress of individual students who came to the class unable to sit still and concentrate, become able learners and socially skilled students.

David had a way of bringing the learning experience back to real life situations, he always held the children's needs at heart and never let the educational bureaucracy get in the way of what was essential to teaching.

The children will never forget the day he confronted the bull, face-to-face on the hill above PakiPaki in order for the children to make their escape. They will never forget their experiences on board the Spirit of Adventure in Class 7 and they will never forget David Jordan who has guided them through their lower school years with such wisdom.



SCHOOL NOTICES

Sam Mason

We are sad to announce that one of our long-serving Teacher Aides is leaving the school this year. Sam Mason has worked in the capacity of Teacher Aide here for the past eleven years. Prior to this she worked as a volunteer in the kindergarten and as a helper in Class One, before joining the staff as a Teacher aide.

Many children, and teachers, have benefited from the time that Sam has spent in our classrooms. As well as assisting children with learning, and helping to prepare some of the many resources used in daily classroom life, Sam has done a wonderful job in overseeing the smooth running of the reading resource room. In any spare moment she could also be found lending a welcome hand to Fran in the Library.

Sam, we thank you so much for all you have done here at Taikura, and wish you all the very best for the next chapter in your life. We will miss you.



Annie Evans

Annie has worked at the school in various capacities for the last 27 years. She and her husband Dave have been passionate advocates for Steiner education and were founding members of the Titirangi Steiner school in Auckland and before that they had initiated and built, with friends, a Steiner Kindergarten in Whangamata, where Annie started her teaching career.

Annie and Dave came to Taikura Rudolf Steiner School primarily for their children's schooling and Annie quickly found her role as the remedial teacher in the Lower School. She has huge understanding and empathy for those children who find learning and the busy classroom environment challenging.

In the latter years Annie took on the management role of Lower School Coordinator, alongside her role as CARE Coordinator. Many people will remember Annie's room to be the small office closest to the Nelson Street entrance, and her door was always open to parents, teachers and children. She was always there with a listening ear, and to give support where needed. She cared deeply for the children and the school.

With much gratitude we wish you well Annie, and look on with interest to the unfolding of new ventures.





TARUNA COLLEGE

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CERTIFICATE IN RUDOLF STEINER EDUCATION

DISCOVER THE TRUE ART OF TEACHING

Discover the true heart and art of teaching while undertaking a rich and exciting journey of personal or professional development

The Certificate is an introductory course to Rudolf Steiner Waldorf Education. This part-time year-long programme will give a broad overview of the many faceted dimensions of Waldorf pedagogy, curriculum and culture. Alongside lectures and workshops that will deepen and extend your understanding of child development and approaches to teaching and learning you will have the opportunity to engage your creative side with many practical activities including arts, crafts, music and movement.

The course is designed to meet the needs of:

- Teachers new to Waldorf education. This includes teachers who have a new position teaching in Steiner Waldorf schools as well as teachers in mainstream schools, seeking professional development, who wish to enliven and reexamine their classroom practice.
- Homeschooling parent-teachers who wish to follow or incorporate a Waldorf Curriculum.
- Teacher aides in Steiner-Waldorf classrooms.
- Parents who wish to accompany their children's development and education with greater consciousness or who simply wish that they had enjoyed the kind education their children are now receiving.
- Student teachers who think that Waldorf Education might be a direction they would like to pursue.

Contributors: Rosie Simpson and Peter Lee together with a range of experienced Waldorf practitioners.

Seminar 1: April 23rd – 28th
Seminar 2: July 16th – 21st
Seminar 3: October 8th – 13th

Fees \$2,700 incl GST
or \$2,400 incl GST if paid by 1st April.

www.taruna.ac.nz



Deco Bay Brass Presents



18 December 2016

Napier Botanical Gardens

7:00pm Pre Carols Concert, 8:15pm

Carols By Candlelight (Candles for sale at gate)

Gold coin donation welcomed.

