

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK



Winter comes and goes
Bringing snow, ice and cold
Leaving hopes of spring
- Cat Crowther

Kia ora e te whānau

Welcome back to Term Three. What an unfortunate end to Term Two we had – with the overnight floods forcing the closure of the school on the last day of term. And then a second flood just as we were getting ready to open for this term. Our hearts go out to all the families who have been affected by the floods and who have suffered damage and loss to their properties, livestock and pets. We wish you strength and courage as you recover and repair the damage. We are very grateful to Tracey, Paula and her class for their manaakitanga and the scrumptious meals they cooked for distribution to those who suffered flood damage.

Despite the unexpected closure of the school on the last day of term, we did end the term well with our Lantern and Matariki Festival the previous week. The lantern walk up on the

hill was magical, and the waiata and karakia around the fire were heartwarming on a cold winter's night. Thank you to all the families who provided the delicious and nutritious soup, which enabled us to enjoy coming together as a community.

On Monday we received a visit from Pippa Caccioppoli, the principal at Taikura Rudolf Steiner School in Hastings, and Karyn Grey, principal at Raphael House in Wellington. Pippa and Karyn are our lead principals, and they are visiting all the Steiner schools in NZ. They were suitably impressed by our beautiful campus and enjoyed visiting the classrooms and seeing tamariki in action.

This week I am attending the Pedagogical Section meeting in Hawkes Bay. More about that in our next newsletter. Also look out for information on the Parent Enrichment evening this term. It will be the first of two presentations on The Twelve Senses.

Nā koutou i tangi, nā tātau katoa.

Ngā mihi, Elizabeth



Term 3 dates

Click [here](#) to view full calendar online

Tuesday 29 July	School Board Meeting	5:00 pm in Totara building
Monday 11 August	Community Meeting	TBC
Monday 25 August	Parent Enrichment Evening	7:00 pm
Wednesday 27 August	School Photos	
Tuesday 2 September	School Board Meeting	5:00 pm in Totara building
Sunday 7 September	Spring Fair Working Bee	9:00am–4:00pm
Sunday 14 September	★ MSS Spring Fair 2025	10:00am - 4:00pm
Monday 15 September	Teacher Only Day/Spring Fair Tidy	No School
Thursday 18 September	Michaelmas/Sharing Assembly	

CLASSROOM CORNER

AHI - CLASS 7

On the last Thursday of Term 2, Class 7 held their *World Cuisine Market*. Despite the weather being bad all day, come 3 o'clock people started rolling in for treats to fill their bellies. From waffles to samosa to sushi there was tons of delicious food on offer; Italian pizza makers with moustaches and slicked-back hair and beautiful Indian sari wearing stall holders selling Indian street food. All in all the market was a huge success and raised a healthy amount of money for Ahi's end of year camp.

Many thanks to all of the people who came and supported us, regardless of the stormy weather.

Reporter: Mia Ashmore



PS: Thank you also to last Friday's hot chips and pizza munchers!

FARM TO TABLE

WINTER IN THE GARDEN



Despite the chill and extensive rains of our winter, our school garden is bursting with life. We've already harvested our first broccoli, and signs of spring are quietly emerging – daffodil bulbs and garlic are send-

ing up their green shoots, and the broad beans are stretching taller each day.

Foraging is always a regular part of our gardening sessions; winter favourites for foraging are fresh rocket, lettuce, fennel, and silver beet. Last week, Class 1 were excited to make delicious silver beet filo triangles using their harvest.



Each gardening session is alive with activity, curiosity, and creativity. The children are engaged working their small group plots – their hands busy with weeding and planting, their minds buzzing with ideas, questions, and discoveries. Through observation, experimentation, design, and collaboration, they are not only learning about organic gardening practices, but also creating a wild and wonderful, child-led garden ecosystem.



Over the holidays, we were fortunate to receive a generous offer of reusable building materials from the *Building Waste Reduction Programme* at the *Tasman District Council*. A huge thank you to **Cam (Lucy's dad)** for coordinating this opportunity!

With three trailer loads of incredible resources, the garden has become a hive of construction and creativity.

So far, the children have designed and begun building a bench seat, garden paths and steps, raised garden beds, tables, gates, and even a giant worm farm made from an old bathtub.

Our garden continues to grow and evolve, – it's a dynamic, ever-changing space that reflects the imagination, care, and collaboration of our young gardeners. It's busy, it's fun, and it's incredibly exciting!

Ngā mihi,
Jolie



SCHOOL NOTICES

WELCOME AND GOOD BYE

Last term we said good bye to:

Luke in class 3

This term we welcome:

Baldur in Kohatu

Sol in class 3

Hazel in class 5

Ruby in class 5

Heidi in class 7

PARENT ENRICHMENT EVENING

Monday 25 August
Topic: Twelve Senses
Time: 7:00 pm

RAIN PROTOCOLS

A reminder to parents that students should be dropped off below in the carpark, and on rainy days they should be equipped with rain coats/wet weather gear and an umbrella.

We've had quite a few parents driving up to drop off their children. This creates a bottle neck and makes it difficult for staff to park.

Walking in the rain is good!
It makes us strong and robust.

CARING FOR OUR KURA



So proud of our Tamariki for taking the initiative to clean our school grounds during their breaks. Thank you!

MANAAKITANGA

On Wednesday the 14th July, Ahi class extended Manaakitanga to those affected by the recent floods. We cooked up a range of nutritious kai - pumpkin soup, dhal, spicy banana loaf, Anzac biscuits and Ben's popular apfel kuchen (apple cake).

A big thank you to Veda Organics and Queen Victoria Fruit & Vege for generously donating fresh ingredients. And gratitude to Tracey Wood for helping us to help others as well as delivering the kai to Bethany Park.



FARM TO TABLE LUNCH FUNDRAISER

Cheese Toastie Lunch Thursday 24 July



\$2.50 Plain cheese toastie

\$3.00 Toastie w/Pesto or Tomato sauce

\$2.00 Sticky date slice or biscuit

Click [here](#) to place your order.

SPRING FAIR 2025

CALLING FOR FAIRYLAND, FOOD, AND RAFFLE COORDINATORS

The Spring Fair steering group continues to meet weekly at Toad Hall on Tuesday mornings at 9am. Hopefully you have heard from one of us directly, either through the class WhatsApp groups or a chat at pick-up time.

We are tracking well with filling key leadership positions, but early confirmation of what shifts you can cover will help ease everyone's anxiety levels. Please also ask friends and family if they are willing to put in a shift to help us out.

In particular, we are looking for:

- someone to lead on **Fairyland**, by connecting the various stall holders who have already committed. This could be one of the current stall holders or someone entirely new.
- someone to assist our wonderful **food coordinator** Caroline Jouve, particularly with out-reach messages procuring food donations.
- someone to take responsibility for **organising the raffle**, as selling raffle tickets in the lead up to the Fair provides us with great promotion (as well as the funds generated).

<https://signup.zone/xNGrqRdJdAjKJWdkp>

As always, funds raised by the Fair will be put towards our special character teaching resources. If you have any questions for the steering group, please come to Toad Hall on Tuesday mornings or email office@mssproprietors.nz. Thank you for your help in keeping the magic alive.

DATES TO NOTE

- * Sunday 7 September—Working Bee
- * Saturday 13 September—Fair set-up day
- * **Sunday 14 September—FAIR DAY**
- * Monday 15 September—Fair tidy-up

SECOND HAND CLOTHES



Motueka Steiner School Spring Fair
**Second hand
Clothes
stall**

Donations:
Clothes in good, clean condition only
please (no rips or stains)

Drop off to:
Woolshed @ the School Farm,
49 School Rd, Lower Moutere
or the school office

Contact Valetta or Marie
022 192 8584 0274 249 973

MATCHBOX CASTLE



Our Matchbox Castle keeper has been busy cutting out shapes for us to sew into small felted treasures. Each little treasure comes with instructions and pre-cut pieces making it an easy project to do at home by the fire. You can find the envelopes with prepacked projects in the office with samples for you to see what the end result is. For more information, please

email Davina (Handwork Teacher)
davina.clarke@motuekasteiner.school.nz

STAR SHOP

The Spring Fair's very popular ☆STAR SHOP☆ is looking for people who enjoy making simple crafts at home, to help create little treasures for the children to buy and enjoy.

If this sounds like something you could help with please get in touch with Jo Wilcox
0211709495

Thank you



WHY WALDORF EDUCATION IS IDEAL FOR THE TEENAGE BRAIN

Recent neuroscience research has revealed new insights into the teenage brain that help explain some of the puzzling and sometimes frustrating behaviours we observe in adolescent children. The teenage brain is still very much a work in progress, with key areas like the frontal lobes not yet fully developed or connected. This new understanding of adolescent neurobiology aligns remarkably well with the principles and methods of Waldorf education, making it an ideal approach for supporting healthy teenage development.

Crucial areas of the brain, like the frontal lobes, responsible for judgment, decision-making and impulse control, are not yet fully developed in teens. The nerve fibres linking the frontal lobes to the rest of the brain lack sufficient myelin, the fatty coating that allows for efficient signal transmission. This leads to slower processing and explains why teens often seem to make questionable decisions or act impulsively.

“Understanding that the adolescent brain is unique and rapidly changing can help parents, society and teens themselves to better manage the risks and grasp the opportunities of the teenage years.” Jay N. Giedd

Additionally, the teenage brain is highly plastic and sensitive. It is primed for learning but also vulnerable to negative influences. Teens' brains are wired to seek novelty and take risks as part of the developmental process. While this can lead to concerning behaviours, it also creates a huge potential for growth and creativity when properly channelled.

Waldorf education is uniquely suited to work with, rather than against, the natural developmental processes occurring in the teenage brain. Here's how:

1. **Brain plasticity:** The teen brain has an incredible capacity for change and adaptation. Waldorf education takes advantage of this plasticity by providing a rich, multifaceted curriculum that engages various brain regions simultaneously.
2. **Prefrontal cortex development:** The prefrontal cortex, responsible for executive functions, is still developing in teens. Waldorf's emphasis on critical thinking, creative problem solving, experiential learning, effective dialogue, and multidisciplinary projects directly supports this crucial brain area's maturation.
3. **Pruning and specialization:** Research suggests there is a second wave of overproduction and subsequent pruning of neural connections in adolescence. Waldorf's genuinely interesting curriculum allows teens to explore various subjects, supporting these natural processes.

4. **Risk-taking and sensation-seeking:** These behaviours, which are typical in teens, are channelled positively in Waldorf education through challenging projects, outdoor experiences, and artistic endeavours.

5. **Peer relationships:** Healthy peer interactions are crucial in healthy teen development. Waldorf's collaborative learning approaches and focus on social-emotional skills align seamlessly with this need of belonging.

6. **Healthy sleep and rhythms:** Research underscores the importance of sleep for teen brain development. Waldorf education's emphasis on balanced daily rhythms supports healthy sleep patterns.

7. **Digital age challenges:** The digital revolution impacts teen brains negatively, if not implemented carefully. Waldorf's thoughtful approach to technology use helps balance these influences.

Potential for change: The teen years offer enormous potential for growth and change. Waldorf education's holistic approach taps into this potential, providing opportunities for teens to develop their unique strengths and interests. By understanding that the teenage brain is still developing, teachers, parents and families can approach adolescent education and upbringing with increased thoughtfulness and appropriate expectations. Thus, Waldorf education provides a nurturing environment that works in harmony with teens' neurobiological reality.

Rather than fighting against teens' natural tendencies toward risk-taking and novelty-seeking, Waldorf education harnesses these impulses into positive learning experiences and the forming of worthy ideals. By providing a rich, multifaceted curriculum and emphasizing the development of the whole person, Waldorf education helps lay the foundation for healthier brain development and future wellbeing and success, grounded in the development of a strong sense of self.

Our role is to provide the scaffolding and support teens need as their brains continue to mature. Waldorf education offers a time-tested approach that aligns beautifully with what neuroscience is now revealing about the teenage brain, making it an excellent choice for nurturing our adolescents' immense potential.

To learn more about the teenage brain, we suggest reading the article *The Amazing Teenage Brain* by Jay N. Giedd. You can find it [here](#).

<https://www.gmws.org/blog-news/why-waldorf-education-is-ideal-for-the-teenage-brain/>

NATIVE TREE NURSERY

Dear community,

Thank you for everyone who already bought plants from our school's native tree nursery currently run by class 5/6. We still have the following plants available in different quantities and sizes:

Ground level plants:

Carex Grass (up to 1.5m)

Shrub and small trees:

Akeake (up to 6m)

Manuka/Tea Tree (up to 8m)

Karamu / Comprosmia Robusta (up to 8m)

Comprosmia mix

Makomako/ Wineberry (up to 10m)

Putaputaweta/ Marbleleaf (up to 10m)

Tarata/Lemonwood (up to 12m)

Subcanopy:

Manatu / Ribbon wood (up to 17m)

Cabbage tree (up to 20m)

Emergent/Canopy:

Totara (up to 30m)

Plants are \$2each. Please come and support us by enriching your land while helping our children grow on their Steiner Greek Olympics this year.

Thank you!

Class 5/6

Any questions please contact
Annemarie 021 132 7122

LANDCARE GROUP



We are pruning the pear trees, and the school orchard, this Sunday 27 July (unless showery).

Meet at the hay barn on School Rd at midday, bringing loppers or secateurs if you have them. Ingrid, with many years of experience, will be on hand to guide - old hands or newbies welcome.

KINDERGARTEN



We're seeing more young children with busy after-kindergarten schedules such as swimming lessons, gymnastics, dance classes, et cetera. While these can be enriching later

on as children grow older, they often come too soon in a child's life. At the kindergarten age, children are still in a deeply formative stage and are still growing into the world. Their 'work' is to be immersed in rich and imaginative play. After a full day at kindergarten, what they most need is rest and unstructured breathing space like a quiet afternoon at home, unhurried free play in the garden or simply cuddling up near a parent.

As children move into the Lower School years, gradually introducing an afternoon activity can be a nourishing extension of their interests. But our younger children still need the protection of rhythm, rest and spaciousness to grow in a healthy, balanced way. Kim John Payne, the author of *Simplicity Parenting*, speaks to this beautifully in his short podcast episode: [Creating Spacious and Calm After School](#).

KINDERGARTEN TERM DATES

31 July Parent Education Session with Lotti. 'The Incarnating Child from Birth to Age 7' from 1:15 to 1:30pm in the Tupu Classroom.

19 Sep Kindergarten Spring Festival 11:30

19 Sep Last day term 3

COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

Offering Childcare, Cleaning and Gardening

Kia Ora!

My name is Ruby, I am an ex Motueka Steiner school student and I have recently been accepted into the International Youth Initiative Program ([YIP](#)). This is an anthroposophical societal and environmental entrepreneurship course based in Sweden. Find out more [on the Yip Website](#).

I am currently working hard towards supporting myself financially to make this happen, but I would appreciate some more work. I am in Motueka until the end of July and am available to look after children, clean houses, weed your garden, or do any odd jobs. I have over two years experience in childcare. I am creative and fun, patient and kind.

Hourly rate from \$20, we can discuss what will work for everyone.

I look forward to hearing from you!

Ruby Botica: 022 077 2559

rubbybotica@gmail.com

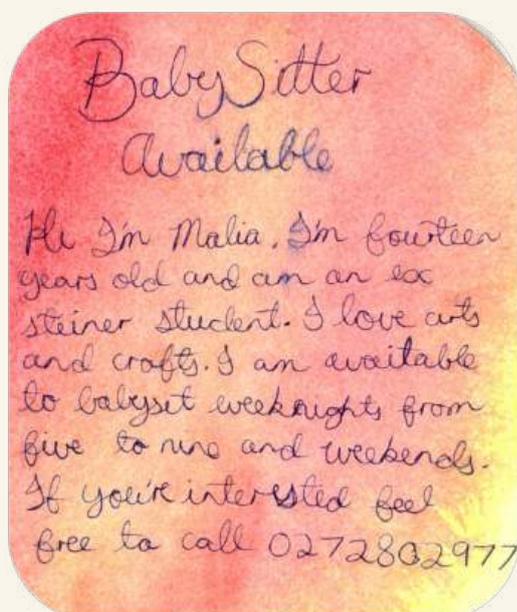
Babysitting service

Hey there! My name is Agustina :)

I am 25 years old and I am living in Motueka. I love being with children and my focus is on supporting them in their growth, allowing them to move freely, at their own pace, and encouraging their natural impulses and development.

If you are interested, we can meet up or have a phone call to see if I am the right fit for you 0204789855.

Babysitting service—Malia!



House for Sale:

3 bedroom, 1 bathroom, plus sleep out and double garage. 1290m2 section, fully fenced. Recently renovated. Wonderful yard for kids to play with trees to climb. Spray free, organic vege gardens and established fruit trees. 3.5kms from Motueka Steiner School.

Enquires to Lorna on 0273907965



FACILITATOR WANTED
NELSON STEINER
PLAYGROUP

★ We are looking for a new facilitator to take over the Nelson Steiner Playgroup.

This is a paid role (MOE-funded) and ideal for someone with a love for early childhood, a gentle presence, and an interest in or understanding of Steiner/Waldorf philosophy. You don't need to be Steiner-trained – just aligned with the kaupapa and able to hold a nurturing, rhythm-based space for tamariki and their whānau.

🕒 **When:** Thursdays, 9am–1pm

📍 **Where:** Founders Park, Nelson

You'll need to manage the funding and admin side independently (we can guide you through the process).

If you're passionate about play-based learning, seasonal rhythms, and community connection, we'd love to hear from you.

Please get in touch with Bex Deva

☎ 0275451907 ✉ NELSONSTEINERPLAYGROUP@GMAIL.COM

Incredible Years Parenting Programme



Greenmeadows Community
Centre, 491 Main Road Stoke



Thursday 7 August - Thursday 20
November 2025

A two-week break occurs during school
holidays (25th September & 2nd October
2025)



9.30am - 12:30pm

This course is suitable for parents/carers of children aged three-to-eight years.

Incredible Years is a free 14-week programme for parents and caregivers of children aged three-to-eight years old, to grow their positive parenting skills.

It provides practical help and support focused on:

- enhancing children's social skills
- child-led play
- using praise and enhancing positive behaviours
- establishing routines
- setting clear rules and boundaries.

The purpose of this course is to resource parents and caregivers with tools to understand their children's behaviour and development, promote positive parenting and healthy communication within the family.

If transport or childcare is a barrier, please let us know as we may be able to help with this.

If you would like any more information please contact Barnardos.

📍 1/186 Queen Street, Richmond, Nelson

✉️ nelson@barnardos.org.nz

🌐 barnardos.org.nz

☎️ 03 539 0019

Kia eke al te hunga taitamariki ki ngā rangi tūhāhā

Parent Education Afternoon

Thursday, 31 July, 1:30-2:45
in Kindergarten's Tupu Room

Please join our mentor teacher, Lotti Henehan, for a cup of tea and a discussion about

The Incarnating Child From Birth to Age 7

How can we support this process?



RSVP office@msteinerkindergarten.nz or 03 528 6453

Motueka Rudolf Steiner School

SCHOOL SHOP

Help us make it happen!

Yolande has a beautiful vision -
a vibrant Waldorf-style shop at the campus entrance!
Open 2 - 3 days a week, run by volunteers.

Coffee & cake - Handmade crafts
Waldorf stationery - Ethical products
Organically grown produce from the school farm
Opportunities for Class 7 students to learn commerce

Open to both our school and the wider community.
A place to gather and connect!

Can you help with materials or time?
Every donation helps!
Please email: yolande.t@motuekasteiner.school.nz



What we need to make it happen:

- Deck building materials & labour
 - Large sliding doors (2nd hand OK!)
 - Display chiller - Electrical work
 - Planter boxes - Outdoor seating - Shade sail
- Goal: Open by Term 1, 2026!

Sponsor opportunity: Branding space on
roadside-facing wall.



Dear Kōmitimiti Whanau,

We are sending warm hugs to all of you who have been affected by the recent floods. Our Café Hub was unharmed with water only coming into the car park garden which we are grateful for!

We are offering koha soups for anyone who needs a warm meal between shoveling mud so come on in, enjoy the warmth of our fire and take a break.

Our line up for our Friday Family Food and Music Nights in August looks magnificent:

July 25th: Jamie Howell & Guests - poetry and original tunes

August 1st: Serenity Now - original alternative country folk punk

August 8th: The Wingers

August 15th: Open Mic

August 22nd: Jason Mciver

August 29th: Public Nuisance - folk band playing traditional English, Irish and Scottish tunes

Our Saturday Morning Family Craft Space welcomes little people and parents every Saturday from 11am to 1pm - all materials supplied & koha appreciated. Look out for our weekly FB post.

On top of the best coffee price in town we now also have turmeric and matcha lattes on our drinks menu! We cater for vegetarians and vegans - not just with savory menu items but also with lots of cake options!!

Our Café Hub is open all weekend:

Fri 10am-8.30pm

Sat&Sun 10am-4pm

Come, share and connect

The Kōmitimiti Team

FAMILY ART & CRAFT SPACE

Come and create art together! This is a shared experience for families.

From painting and weaving to nature crafts, storytelling, music, dance and more – we offer a rich, hands-on space to get creative with your tamariki.

Enjoy a cuppa while you connect with others in our inclusive, community-focused café. There's a cosy kids' corner, delicious affordable food, and options for all dietary needs.

No need to book, just drop in and join the fun!
 ✂️ All materials provided.

Let's grow, play, and imagine – together.

Every Saturday from 11am to 1pm
 all ages are welcome
 Your Koha for materials is much appreciated

☎ 020401121100
 📍 289 Main Road Lower Moutere
 📧 komitimitiriverside@gmail.com

KOMITIMITI PROJECT

Rites of Passage Foundation WINTER HOOTENANNY!

Ceilidh Dance Fundraiser

Sat 16th Aug 2025, 7:00 pm, Mapua Community Hall

We warmly invite you to a heart-warming, community-building, celebratory evening at a ceilidh barn dance (in case you're wondering what in the world a hootenanny is).

Come join friends, old and new, to whirl and twirl to toe-tapping live music from the Footloose Ceilidh Band. Dance a variety of Celtic dances for any age and ability. No experience or partner necessary.

Hot drinks and cakes available. Come dressed in your best party finery!

Tickets essential from
 Humanitix: [HERE](#)

Raffle Tickets
 HERE

All proceeds support the Rites of Passage Foundation. Strengthening our work with youth, families, and the wider community. Your support makes a lasting difference.

Contact@tides.net.nz

Labyrinth Art Therapies Cacao Immersions



“Coming back to our senses”

The importance of self care in tumultuous times

Sat 2 August 2025
Atamai, Motueka

11:00am - 1:00pm
Investment \$30



Cacao Ceremony
A Medicinal Music Pilgrimage
Visualisation
Journaling



Bookings via: LarT@tutanota.com  Labyrinth Art Therapies



Labyrinth Art Therapies

Marije Laarakker Anthroposophical Art Therapist - BA
Anthroposophical Art Therapy
Motueka - Rivaka

Stressful situations, illness and discomfort disrupt the natural harmony between the physical body, its life forces, the realm of feelings and emotions, and the Self. Anthroposophical Art Therapy offers inspiring tools to restore the balance and find acceptance, healing or relief.

Experience the healing qualities of colour, movement and form, accompanied by story, poem or song. Individualised therapeutic exercises with paint, crayons, and clay offer support with physical, emotional, and mental health.

Marije studied Anthroposophical Art Therapy at Leiden University for Applied Sciences, and holds her Bachelors degree for this 4 years full time study since 1998

Email: LarT@tutanota.com

Website: www.labyrintharttherapy.wordpress.com

Text: 022-5169989



Motueka Doula Team



Pregnancy- Birth -Postpartum

It is known that women who are supported by a Doula feel safer and therefore more able to go into a deep state which allows for the birth process to unfold naturally.

Jenni:

homebirthmotueka@gmail.com

021 203 5571

Joana:

jo.schaaf@yahoo.com

020 416 68194

Vanessa:

mcbridevanessa@gmail.com

021 163 5648

 **REGISTER NOW**

1

TE TOTARA CAMP

Volleyball

SEPTEMBER 23-24 2025

Setters: 9am-10.30am
Spikers: 11am- 3pm
Juniors: 11am- 3pm

LEARN DEVELOP GROW

LEAD COACH
Ben Laing
VNZ
Jnr Mens Coach

