

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK



*Blessed be your holidays,
Cozy be your hearth,
Merry be your family,
Peaceful be your hearts.*
- Traditional

Kia ora e te whānau

Congratulations to Moana for their excellent play performances last week of *The Murmur of the Fallen Creeds*. The outdoor classroom provided an excellent setting for this play, and you made yourselves proud – as well as your teacher, of course! And a heartfelt thank you to Fred Robertson, who wrote the play, for his generosity and assistance in staging it.

From all accounts, Ahi had a very successful camp and came back full of enthusiasm and ready to rehearse their presentations for the Graduation Dinner next week. As they come to the end of their journey here at our school, we wish them all the best in their various high schools next year.

Although we have a small school, it is no mean task to keep it up and running, and to provide quality Steiner education for our tamariki. Many people work behind the scenes, so to speak, and so we extend our appreciation to the School Board as well as to the Proprietors Trust for their on-going support and for all the

volunteer hours which they so graciously give to support the school. Thank you to our dedicated office staff without whom our tasks will be so much more challenging. I am also deeply grateful to all the teachers and support staff who educate our tamariki with so much love and care, as well as to our caretaker for all the trees he planted this year! And last, but not least, thank you to all our supportive parents for your loyalty and dedication to the school and to the students.

We look forward to seeing you at our end-of-the year Advent assembly on Thursday, 18 December at 12:00 at the Lower Moutere Hall. The children will receive their reports after assembly from their teachers, and from there you may take them home for the summer holidays. Kohatu children will not attend the assembly and can be picked up at school as usual.

Meri Kirihimete! Have a wonderful summer holiday and enjoy time out with your whānau.

E ití noa ana, nā te aroha.

Ngā mihi, Elizabeth



TERM DATES

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

Friday 12 December	Community Gathering	2:30pm Outdoor Kitchen
Thursday 18 December	End of Year Assembly	12:00pm Lower Moutere Hall
Friday 19 December	Teacher Only Day	No School
Wednesday 4 February	First Day of School 2026	
Friday 6 February	Waitangi Day	No School

CLASSROOM CORNER

KōHATU

As teachers we always have to teach a curriculum that meets the children we have before us, to be able to be flexible and inspired.

This year we have had a group of children who have thrived on spending more time in nature, so we have introduced more outside time. We have been on magical adventure walks every week, going to our special place on the land. Once a week we have had a fire in our Kohatu garden in which to cook our lunch.



There have been imaginary worlds created by the children both at inside and outside play time.

In Kohatu we are now celebrating Advent with our stories and morning circle, and also welcoming summer with songs and poems.

We would like to extend a big thank you to the Kohatu whānau for the support and joy you have brought to our corner of the school, entrusting your precious tamariki to us.

Aroha Nui

Lotti, Helen and Yuki



CLASS 7 CAMP ABEL TASMAN



SURPRISE VISIT



Thank you to Mr Bubbles (Eran Backler) for visiting our school and filling our skies with bubbles.

MOANA PLAY

The Muses of The Feather Creeds

By Fred Robertson



SCHOOL NOTICES

END OF YEAR ASSEMBLY

We need some greenery to decorate the hall for our end of year assembly.

We are also looking for volunteer helpers to help with set up and pack down. Set up will begin from around 11am at the Lower Moutere hall.

If you are able to contribute in any way, please contact the office. Thank you!

LOST AND FOUND

The lost and found basket is located outside of the office. Please have a look to see if any of those items belong to your child/ren. Unclaimed items will be donated to a local charity shop.

STATIONARY 2026

Classes 1 to 7 will receive their stationery packs at the beginning of term 1. Please ensure that payments have been made by the end of January to ensure that your child can receive their packs on time.

AFTER SCHOOL SPORTS KI O RAHI



Congratulations to the Motueka Steiner School Ki o Rahi team, for winning all the games of the season!

SCHOOL BOARD

Kia ora Motueka Steiner School whānau,

On 25 November the BOT had its final meeting of 2025. Everything is ticking along nicely and we have finished the year well, wrapping up all our loose ends including the draft 2026 budget and 2026 Annual Plan. Ongoing is our efforts to gain more exposure for our school via some road signage at both turnoffs, so we will continue to work on this in conjunction with the Tasman District Council and Waka Kotahi (NZTA).

We are sadly saying goodbye to our Chairperson Sam in Term 1, 2026 as his child has finished their education with us which marks the end of a long career for him and his family with our school! We thank him for his dedication to getting us through to the end of this year seamlessly and for all his hard work both on the BOT and in the community as a whole. And rest assured, he just might return as Jester at the Spring Fair next year!

Therefore, we are after expressions of interest for the BOT and ideally someone who would be happy to take on the Chairperson role. It pays \$75 per BOT meeting with usually 2 meetings per term, paid out in December. Please speak to Sam or Elizabeth for more information.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing you all and serving our wonderful school again in 2026.

Meri Kirihimete

Paula Robertson (on behalf of the School Board)

PROPRIETORS TRUST

COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND

The Proprietors Trust manages a modest Community Support Fund. The purpose of the fund is to enable students to attend the school from families who would otherwise not be able to afford the Attendance Dues or who would be put into hardship by the fees. The main source of funding into the fund comes from donations and fundraising.

Contact principal@motuekasteinerschool.nz and office@mssproprietors.nz to receive an application form. Applications for assistance in 2026 close on 23 December 2025.

AN ADVENT CONTEMPLATION

Cheryl Prigg, priest of The Christian Community, New Zealand

In the northern hemisphere the days are approaching their shortest, temperatures are either below or not far above zero, rain and snow are falling, ice is forming – not a beach visit or

barbeque in sight. Here in the southern hemisphere, we must learn to long for the light and seek the coming of the light of Christmas always anew.

We, here in the southern hemisphere have an opportunity to take in this great cosmic event, in a way that includes summer and winter, indeed, the whole of the being of the earth – to

experience the birth of the Christ child as a reality far beyond season. As time goes on, it will become more and more important that our Christian festivals become less and less connected with the seasons.

Christmas is, and remains a vital story for children, and for the child in us also. The birth of the child who could offer an abode to the cosmic Sun Being, who left His divine heritage and home, and freely chose to be born into humanity, is not only the greatest gift of all, but echoes somewhere in all souls. It is a most life confirming story for children of all ages – as it was also a decision made at the turning point of their own sojourn in the heavenly realms, to leave the spiritual world and make their home on the earth.

Children have the capacity – and the need – to sense a different, new, light filled quality around them at Advent and Christmastime. They can do this if they are given a quiet, hope-filled waiting time and preparation through Advent and Christmas stories, carols, to look up to the night sky and feel the thrill and expectation of the coming of not just gifts from under the Christmas tree, but also the coming of the Christ child.

The constellation of those gathered around the manger in Bethlehem on the first Christmas night is a universal, one-and-only-time event. Joseph represents all that is historical, the child represents our eternal, 'becoming' self – that which we are no longer, who we are, and what we have not yet become. But more. The child in the manger was destined to grow up, experience the decaying state of humanity and the earth as deep soul pain, to vanquish what was always known in the ancient mystery schools as 'the mysteries of death'. The young mother personifies 'the mysteries of birth'. Mary evokes a faint memory of paradise lost - she is the one who reminds us of our original at-oneness with the Godhead and the spiritual worlds. All this may well evoke nostalgic feelings of, and gratitude for an historical event.

For adults though, how do we live with the Advent and Christmas season beyond nostalgia for an event that

happened more than 2000 years ago? In his beautiful lectures, published as 'Threefold Mary', Emil Bock¹ asks us to consider that for us to find our way back to the Nativity in a meaningful and rejuvenated way, we must first approach the image of the woman clothed with the sun in the Book of Revelation (Ch 12).

This woman clothed with the sun, the 12 zodiacal stars above her head, and the redeemed calcifying forces of the moon under her feet, is heavy with child. After her son is born, she is assailed by the dragon, the child is taken up to God, and she is rescued to shelter in community by the Archangel Michael. This image is worth so many more than 1000 words, but for this short article, we can identify a reason why self-transformation is not only difficult, explaining why the phrase 'I am fine the way I am', or 'this is me, take it or leave it' is often heard. Firstly, at very

least bearing something new of our self into the world always involves pain and travail, and the potential danger of deception or attack from adversarial beings that actively work against healthy human development.

The child in the Matthew Gospel was under attack by Herod. The cosmic mother, by the adversarial being itself. In both cases, where is safety sought? In community – a safe and loving family, like-minded people who seek to strive upwards and inwards. Upwards toward a living relationship with the spiritual world, outwards to the 'becoming self' of others, and inward to He who warms and lightens the hoping human heart.

To learn to conceive is how we find our way to a new connection with the mystery of the Nativity. 'Conceive' in a way that enlivens and lifts our thinking to the realm of the stars, opens us to see the world of nature as revelation of the beings that live and work just beyond our sense

perceptions, warms and lifts our feeling life beyond personal subjectivity and emotions, that our heart may become sunlike. To 'conceive' that we are spiritual beings having a physical

experience and our task is to practice the art of living and creating that informs our actions so that matter is spiritualised.

As the warmth of summer approaches, and as twilight lingers longer and longer, it is wonderful to look up and experience the balance of light and darkness in the high, translucent blue dome of the southern hemisphere twilight sky.

It is the gift of this historical, once-only world confirming event, and at the same time, to strive every year to experience Advent and Christmas as a call from the future into the present. May He who is the Light of the world, He who makes all things new, live anew in and for you and all yours this year.



COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

You are warmly invited to a festive get-together of our school community – students, parents, family and friends, teachers, and all other staff – on **Friday, 12 December, from 2:30 to 4:30 pm** to celebrate the Festive Season around our **Outdoor Kitchen**.

Join us for an opportunity to listen to – and sing along with – the School Choir as well as an Adult Choir, enjoy Christmas cookies, cake, and drinks, and even pick up some Christmas presents.

Our community's dollmakers, the Midnight Elves, will host a stall featuring handcrafted animals, toys, Christmas tree ornaments, and a Nativity Scene. There will also be a second-hand toy stall, candle dipping for your Christmas candles, and a craft station where children can make a gift using natural materials. This is not a fundraiser – it is a celebration. However, to cover costs (for example, for candle materials), some items will be priced while others will be offered for a koha.

School parents will receive further information through their Liaison Parents.

The "driving forces" behind this event are the same dedicated people who run the Weavers Café. They can't bring this celebration to life alone and would greatly appreciate some support from parents.

On the same day the Motueka Santa Parade begins at **5:00 pm**, so you may wish to extend your day by joining in that celebration as well.



KINDERGARTEN

As the year draws to a close, I find myself looking back with gratitude on this season of my life, having been a part of this wonderful Steiner community. Eighteen years ago when my family moved here, my children began their early journeys in our playgroup and kindergarten. Since then, I've had the joy of experiencing this place from many angles as a parent, a volunteer and an employee. It's been a blessing to watch children grow, share in their discoveries and feel the warmth and support that makes our Steiner community so special. Being part of this community has been a true privilege.

Though I may be moving on from the role of team leader in the kindergarten, this community will always hold a place in my heart and I will continue to be part of it in other ways. Wishing everyone a wonderful festive season, a chance to take a big outbreath over summer, and a joyful return when kindergarten welcomes children again for Term 1 on Tuesday 3rd February. Thank you to everyone who makes this community such a special place.

Ngā mihi maioha,

Amy



COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

Message from Steiner family moving to Motueka

Kia ora

We are Lee, Larissa, Ida (4 yrs) and Francis (2 yrs). We are moving to the area from Titirangi, and are very excited to be part of your school community! We are after a temporary space for our tiny home while we settle in the area and look to purchase a larger lifestyle property. We would be open to anything that anyone in the community might have available from mid to late January 2026 within a 30 minute drive of school. Please get in touch with Lee if you know of a space that might work, or if you know of anything coming up for sale - 0210368635.



Nga mihi aroha

Accommodation sought

We are a couple in our 60s visiting from Germany from late February until Easter. We are coming to spend time with our son and his family (Valetta, Mihau and our grandchildren), who are part of the Steiner school community.

We would love to find affordable accommodation nearby during our stay. If you know of a house-sitting or pet-sitting opportunity, or have a bach, tiny house, or self-contained space that might suit, we'd love to hear from you.

Warmly,
Ewa and Uli

ourlivingfootprints@gmail.com or 022 192 8584



We are a family of five from Germany – Ville (8), Hedda (10), Sverre (12), Anika (45) and Tillmann (46) – looking for **accommodation in or around Motueka**. For Tillmann's educational sabbatical, which includes e.g. volunteering at Motueka High School, Motueka Steiner School and the Riverside Community, we will be staying in Motueka **from the end of January until the beginning of July**. Our children will be attending the Motueka Steiner School during that time.

We are happy with a modest amount of space in a pleasant environment and are willing to contribute our practical skills. We are open to alternative housing options as well as to change accommodation during the period if needed.

If you can offer a place that might suit us, we'd love to hear from you.

Ville Hedda Sverre Anika Tillmann

Anika
anika.mahler@gmail.com
0049-152-05880733 (WhatsApp, Signal, Threema)

Family looking for accommodation
end of January – July 2026, in or around Motueka

Harp Lessons with Annemieke

Dear Steiner Whanau,

Your child is inspired to play the harp too. I teach the harp locally and have a few spaces. Rental harps are available for hire so you don't need to own a harp yet. I teach both sight reading skills and playing by heart.

Annemieke Harmonie
0212139446
harpandhealing@gmail.com



Music lessons are now available at school!

We offer piano lessons (from class 2 recommended) on Monday afternoon and Guitar, Ukulele and Flute lessons (from class 4 recommended). Day to be confirmed.



To enroll your children please contact Eugenie: info@musiclingo.nz

For more information, check our website: [Musiclingo.nz](https://musiclingo.nz) [https://musiclingo.nz/](https://musiclingo.nz) or find us on facebook: MusicLingo



Childrens Wood Carving and Leather Workshop

With John Lawry and Fern Reid

Workshop 1: Make a Leather Pouch or Sheath with Fern
Workshop 2: Choice of carving a Porotiti or Ring Catcher with John

Groups swap over after lunch so each child gets to attend both workshops

Friday 23 January

10am - 3pm

Age: 9+ Cost: \$100

Location Motueka Steiner School.

BYO Morning tea and lunch.

For booking contact:
Julie@julielawry.co.nz



Family Workshop Traditional Crafts

With John Lawry and Fern Reid

Workshop 1: **Leather** pouches and bracelets with Fern

Workshop 2: **Casting** and **Atlatl** making with John

Groups swap over after lunch so they each get to attend both workshops



Saturday 24th January

10am - 3pm

Cost: Family of 2 \$120

Family of 3 \$180

Family of 4 \$240

Family of 5 \$240

Location Motueka Steiner School.

BYO Morning tea and lunch.

For bookings contact:
Julie@julielawry.co.nz



Adults Leathercraft and Spoon Carving Workshop

With John Lawry and Fern Reid

Sunday 25 January

10am - 3pm

Cost: \$120

Participants choose 1 workshop
Workshop 1: Leatherwork project with Fern

Workshop 2: Spoon Carving Masterclass with John

Location: Motueka Steiner School.
Please bring something for a shared lunch.

For bookings contact:
Julie@julielawry.co.nz



SUMMER HOLIDAY PROGRAMMES

- GO WILD | 7-10yrs
- KAITIAKI KIDS | 10-12yrs
- JUNIOR JOURNEY | 11-13yrs

Enrol now for a holiday programme that will provide new outdoor learning experiences delivered by our experienced team in a fun, safe & supportive environment!

ENROL NOW!

Visit our website to find out more & enrol

WHENUA ITI
OUTDOORS
wio.org.nz

Summer Football Camps

At Positive Football Academy, we create a safe, uplifting and empowering environment where children grow as footballers and people.

GOLDEN BAY <small>2030 Takaka Valley Highway, Takaka</small> WED 14th - THU 15th JAN	CAMP 1 AGES 7-10 9 am - 12 pm	CAMP 2 AGES 11-13 3:30 - 6:30 pm
MOTUEKA <small>Goodman Park, 40 Old Wharf Rd, Motueka</small> FRI 16th - SAT 17th JAN	CAMP 1 AGES 7-9 9 am - 12 pm	CAMP 2 AGES 10-11 3:30 - 6:30 pm
MAPUA <small>Mapua Domain, Aranui Rd, Mapua</small> TUE 20th - WED 21st JAN	CAMP 1 AGES 7-9 9 am - 12 pm	CAMP 2 AGES 10-11 3:30 - 6:30 pm

ANYONE WELCOME, LIMITED SPOTS PER CAMP

COST PER CAMP \$70
(2 days)

Bring boots, shinpads, hat, drink bottle and meal/snack

Info & bookings: Coach FRANCESCO
022 039 8070 - positivefootballacademy@gmail.com

Fun With Clay

Family Workshops
Hosted by Akane

Sunday 28th Dec or
Thursday 8th Jan

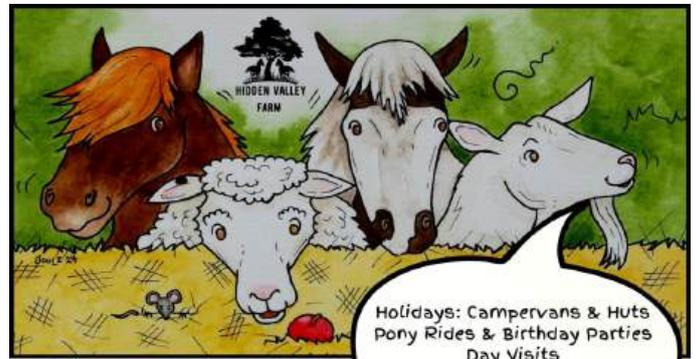
Choose a session:
9:30 - 11:00 am
11:30 - 1:00 pm
2:00 - 3:30 pm

\$100 1 adult & 1 child
Includes all materials,
glazing and firing costs
(One extra child allowed
\$20 per booking)

To book:
valetta.sowka@gmail.com
022 192 8584



Create together
a dish or cup with
surface decoration
For kids 5+
and their caregiver



hiddenvallyfarm.co.nz
info.hvfnz@gmail.com

Holidays: Campervans & Huts
Pony Rides & Birthday Parties
Day Visits
Workshops
Dog Walking
(conditions apply)

My name is Terri Everett, and together with my family, we run a 400-acre farm and Farm Pet Sanctuary on Takaka Hill. We're excited to share a unique opportunity for your families to enjoy an affordable and unforgettable experience during these Christmas holidays.

Hidden Valley Farm offers a magical mix of hands-on animal encounters, outdoor adventures, and peaceful farm living. Children can groom, cuddle, and meet our friendly sanctuary animals, explore nature, splash in the Tannin Stream, or enjoy a miniature pony ride. We also offer *Pony Parties*—a favourite for birthdays and special celebrations.

For families wanting a real getaway, our rustic **Camping Huts** and **Self-Contained Campervan Spots** provide a relaxed, off-grid holiday filled with simple joys: campfires, starry skies, bush walks, birdsong, and plenty of space for kids to roam.

Whether visiting for a day trip or staying for a memorable farm holiday, Hidden Valley Farm is a place to slow down, reconnect, and let children experience a little adventure and a lot of heart.

For bookings or more information, visit our Facebook page: **Hidden Valley Farm NZ** or contact me via email: holiday.hvfnz@gmail.com or call/text 027 526 8771

2 DAY POTTERY WORKSHOP

HOSTED BY AKANE
@ STUDIO A

1st session
hand built objects
stamping + surface
decoration

2nd session
hand-painting + glaze



\$80 PER SESSION
INCLUDES ALL MATERIALS
KILN FIRING
AND REFRESHMENTS

SELECT EITHER
AM GROUP: 9:30 - 12:00
PM GROUP: 13:30 - 4:00

MONDAY COURSE:
29 DEC + 12 JAN

TUESDAY COURSE:
30 DEC + 13 JAN

Email to register:
valetta.sowka@gmail.com



What's On!

Discover our free Summer Reading
Adventure events.



Christmassy Get Crafty!

Join us for fun Christmas Crafts,
different craft each week.

Wednesday 3, 10 & 17 December
3.30pm - 4.30pm

Get Crafty!

We supply the materials, you
supply the inspiration for summer
craft in the library.

Wednesdays 7, 14 & 21 January
10.00am - 12.00pm

Out & About!

Join in at our Summer Reading
Adventure events at Kiyosato
Gardens (cancelled if raining).

Tuesdays 6, 13 & 20 January
10.00am - 12.00pm

Back to School Get Crafty!

We supply the materials, you
supply the inspiration for summer
craft in the library.

Wednesdays 11, 18, 25 February
3.30pm - 4.30pm

Lego® Fun!

Take a break from the sun
and create with loads of
Lego and lots of fun!

Thursdays 8, 15 & 22 January
10.00am - 12.00pm

* NOTE: More information about events can
be found at www.tasmanlibraries.govt.nz