

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK



*With grateful hearts for  
each small thing  
For the gifts from the earth  
in the bowls we bring  
Our blessings shared in  
gentle night  
We reflect on our day as we  
nourish our night*

*Anonymous*

Kia ora e te whānau

Welcome back to term one of 2026. We hope you had an amazing summer holiday with friends and whānau. As I am writing this, it is a glorious day outside filled with humming bees and clicking cicadas. I am reminded that we are coming to the end of summer, as some trees are already starting to change colour. Enjoy the lovely warm weather while it lasts!

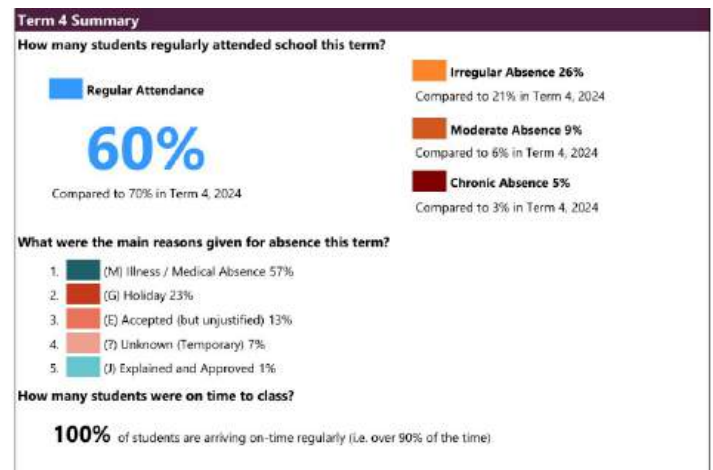
Last term, our student attendance was down by 10% from term four, 2024. We had a 60% attendance compared to 70% the previous year. Please see information below – we receive these attendance updates from the Ministry every term. As you are aware, the Ministry of Education is continuing to focus on school attendance. *The government's target is for 80% of students to attend regularly; that is, to attend school more than 90% of the time.* If a student misses one day of school every two weeks, they miss more than a whole year of school by 16 years of age. It is now a legal requirement for all schools to have an [Attendance Management Plan](#) in place, and improving student attendance is one of the School Board's annual aims this year. Parents and caregivers,

alongside the school, play a key role in building strong habits of regular school attendance. Please continue to notify the school if your child is going to be absent or intends to be absent for a portion of the school term for valid reasons, like a tangi or a medical procedure. *Family holidays or taking time off for extracurricular activities (not organised by the school) are not acceptable reasons for being absent.*

The tamariki are already engaged with enthusiasm in their schoolwork, and especially in playing games with their friends at break times. We welcomed many new families to our school this term, domestic as well as international, and we wish you all a joyous and fruitful journey here at our wonderful school.

*Mauri tū, mauri ora!*

Ngā mihi, Elizabeth



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## TERM DATES

Sunday 1 March

Working Bee

9:00-1:00 pm

Monday 23 March

School Photos

Thursday 2 April

Last day term 1

Monday 20 April

First day term 2

# CLASSROOM CORNER

## AHI

In class 6 and 7 we turned our focus beyond New Zealand. The students are exploring Oceania and Te Moana-nui-a-kiwa, the Pacific Ocean in our first main lesson of the term.

Ahi students are currently working on their first painting for 2026. The artist we have based our first painting on is Claude Monet. Students will create these paintings using multiple layers to create a similar effect to Claude Monet.

Below students Leona, Olivia and Hazel are busy working on their paintings.



# CONGRATULATIONS HELGA



# HANDWORK



In handwork we work with  
all of our care.

Our eyes help our hands to bring work to  
bare.

So we can be proud of the things that we  
do, the projects we make  
will speak of this too

All Steiner schools around the world have a handwork programme that is designed to help children focus and connect with themselves, as they are taken through the process of getting their head, heart and hands working together. Coming from a world where silence is no longer golden and every minute is action packed, fitting into this personal space can be hard and unsettling for many.

The children last year finished a record number of projects with a lot of evidence of heart, heart and hands shining through in their work. I am really looking forward to working with these amazing children as we step into a new year of handwork.

Davina Clarke

# WELCOME TO MSS

**Kohatu**—Lila, Hannah, Dylan, Tashi, Sienna, Scarlett, Margaux, Mahalia and Margot  
**Putiputi**—Greta, Aroha, Josie, Matteo and Kei  
**Mahana**—Penny, Otis, Ivy, Max, Neas and Ville  
**Moana**—Ari and Hedda  
**Ahi**—Sverre

# SCHOOL NOTICES

## BUS USERS

Caregivers are responsible for getting their children to school, which may involve getting the children to and from their nearest bus stop. Please stay with your children while they are waiting for their school transport or keep in contact with them to make sure that they are picked up safely. It's recommended that you be at the bus stop 5-10 minutes before the scheduled time.

## WORKING BEE

Please save the date for our termly working bee  
**Sunday 1 March from 9am to 1pm.**

With our large campus, there are always tasks to be accomplished and every bit of your help is much appreciated. Look out for the sign up sheet!

## VACANCY: TEACHER AIDE

Fixed term, part time teacher aide position from Monday to Friday 9:45am to 10:45am. Starting as soon as possible. Experience recommended. Please email your CV to [principal@motuekasteiner.school.nz](mailto:principal@motuekasteiner.school.nz). Applications close Thursday 26 February.

## VOLUNTEER SCHOOL LIBRARIAN WANTED

**Help Bring the Joy of Books to Life! – Volunteer School Librarian Wanted** Do you love stories, sorting books, and seeing children light up over their next great read? Then we'd *love* to have you join us as our **part-time School Librarian!**

Up until now, the library has been open on **Tuesdays and Fridays during lunch time**, giving our tamariki the chance to take out and return books—but we're flexible on those days if something else works better for you!

Whether you're a bookworm, a retired librarian, a parent with a love of reading, or just someone who wants to help grow the joy of reading, we'd love to hear from you.

If you're keen to get involved, please email **Miss Terry** at

[yolande.t@motuekasteiner.school.nz](mailto:yolande.t@motuekasteiner.school.nz)



## ACCOMMODATION NEEDED FOR NOLEE

We are looking for a host family that can accommodate our German support teacher, Nolee. Preferably in town, but open to other areas. From March to July. Please email the office for more info.

# INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



**Please welcome our three new International Student Families who have joined us at the start of this year.**



Anika and Tillmann with Ville (class 3), Sverre (class 7) and Hedda (class 5). This German family will be with us for 2 terms. They live in Brooklyn, are very interested in the outdoors and their buddies

are Julia, Nick and their family.

Also from Germany are Moh, Neas (class 3), Ari (class 5) and Kim. They live in the Moutere and their buddies are Ben, Abbie and their family. Their plan is to stay a whole year with us.



And these are Misaki and Lucas (class 2) from Japan. Their buddies are Martha, Chris and their family. Misaki and Lucas plan to stay with us until Lucas has finished Class 7. Currently, they are living in Neudorf in a flatting situation until the end of March. After that, they would like to move into a self-contained flat, cottage, or apartment.

If anyone knows of a suitable place for them, please let Misaki know or leave a message at the office.

A warm thank you to the class teachers and students – all five international students feel very welcome at our school and have already made friends. This makes the parents happy and their lives easier. Let's all continue our long tradition of including not only the students, but also the adults, in our community.

Also, a warm thank you to the buddy families who have already formed a bond with our visitors. Last but not least: a very big thank you to all three families for choosing Motueka Steiner School for their children during their adventure on the other side of the world. Joining our school community enriches us greatly and helps connect us with the wider world.

Konstanca  
International Student Liaison

# END OF YEAR ASSEMBLY



# MSS PROPRIETORS TRUST

The new Proprietors Trust (PT) at our school would like to introduce itself: Warwick Sandler, Benjamin Rudolph, David Gaston, Ian Dorney, Beba McLean, Louise Perzigian, Isabel Challis and Konstanca Palzer are full PT trustees. Annemarie Bauer, Valetta Sowka, Dunja Balmer, Karuna Freiberg and Mauricio Lloreda are non-executive trustees. In line with our internal Memorandum of Understanding, half of the PT trustees also serve as MRSST trustees. These are currently David, Ian, Beba and Louise. A warm thank you goes to the previous PT chairperson, Lachlan Grey, for a smooth handover.

Beyond the official responsibilities of the PT (some of which relate to Ministry of Education funding, with a key focus on maintaining our school's Special Character – Steiner Education), we aim to:

- support our principal, Elizabeth, and all teachers
- foster a positive and inclusive community culture in and around our school
- work transparently and offer an open ear to everyone in our community

The aim of this newly formed PT is to be the **HEART** of our organisation, with a strong focus on our Special Character. This is reflected not only in the delivery of Steiner Education, but also in how we interact with one another, how we show respect and support, and how we care for the environment. We strive to ensure that all our decisions and actions are made consciously, always keeping their impact on students, teachers and the parent body in mind. We are committed to building a strong working relationship with the other two entities in our organisation – the MRSST and the BoT – grounded in **RESPECT, SUPPORT and SYNERGY**.

A quick update on the PT's actions so far:

At the end of last year, the PT allocated **Community Support Fund** (CSF) grants of approximately \$2,000 each to five families to support their children's Attendance Dues. A warm thank you to everyone who donated to the CSF in 2025. Your generosity has enabled these families to remain part of our community and continue their children's Steiner Education.

We have engaged **LogicGroup**, a well-established company that works with many State Integrated Schools in Aotearoa New Zealand, to ensure that the funds the PT receives from the Ministry of Education are spent in full compliance with MoE regulations. LogicGroup's engagement is funded with money from the MoE.

**Fundraising** is another important responsibility of the PT. If you have ideas for fundraising for any part of our organisation – the school, kindergarten, farm, a class activity, or otherwise, please present them to the PT for approval.

Our annual **Spring Fair** is the organisation's largest fundraiser. The PT has already begun work by drafting a Fair Handbook. Watch this space – you'll hear more soon. Finally, a **Survey** has been prepared to help us better understand the needs and wishes of our current and past parent body. We would really appreciate you taking a few minutes to complete it and return it, as your feedback is very valuable to all of us. We will keep you updated as we go.

Should you have any questions please contact me on 027 61 83 633 or email [chair@mssproprietors.nz](mailto:chair@mssproprietors.nz). Wishing you all a wonderful start to the new school year! Love!  
Konstanca  
Chairperson of the PT at MSS

## FARM DAYS



Kia ora! Did you know the Steiner Farm, aka Veda Organics, has grown and sold hundreds of cucumbers and radishes and is starting to produce tomatoes, corn, courgettes, watermelons, potatoes, carrots and so much more!

Farm managers Mihau and Valetta, parents of Rafi (Class 2), Lila and Zelia hosted a community potluck in late January to showcase the lightning-like transformation of the fields behind our Steiner School into a productive market garden and vegetable box operation. The hum of reconnection warmed the land and the excitement was palpable as parents learned about the farm and the efforts underway to create a market garden that will nourish our children and the broader community.

In these early stages, Mihau and Valetta can use all the support you can give. Organic farming is very labour intensive and many similar initiatives enjoy volunteer love from their communities at certain parts of the growing season. The garden is a third of an acre and all the produce is grown organically. Wow!

Come along one Monday, between 9am and 3pm, for their 'Market Garden Mondays' - a weekly day for volunteers to come lend a hand and enjoy taking part in this exciting new project.

For more info, or to offer support in other ways, contact Mihau and Valetta at [ourlivingfootprints@gmail.com](mailto:ourlivingfootprints@gmail.com)

## Market Garden Mondays

The Steiner Farm needs you!

Come along for any length of time on Mondays between 9am and 3pm to help around our beautiful organic vegetable garden in its first year of production.

Every bit helps!

Take away some fresh produce as a thank you.

Let Mihau and Valetta know you're coming:

022 192 8684

# A GUIDE TO PHONE-FREE FUN, FROM THE AUTHOR OF THE ANXIOUS GENERATION

By Tahneer Oksman

Jonathan Haidt's 2024 book *The Anxious Generation* made the case that smartphones and social media had "rewired" kids' brains. His new book, *The Amazing Generation*, is a collaboration with science journalist Catherine Price and graphic novelist Cynthia Yuan Cheng.

If you're the parent of a child or teenager, chances are you've heard of social psychologist Jonathan Haidt, or at the very least his wildly influential, bestselling 2024 book, *The Anxious Generation*.

In sum, the book argues that the rise of smartphones and social media over the past decade and a half has "rewired" the brains of young people, leading to a mental health crisis.

Haidt's arguments and approach have been challenged by critics, many of whom point out that causation is not correlation, that his work ignores the many other potential factors at play affecting mental health.

Yet, *The Anxious Generation* has undeniably had a significant impact. Haidt is leading, in his own terms, a "movement," which we have already seen translate into legislation in many states around the U.S. limiting the use of phones in schools.

Haidt's latest work, a collaboration with science journalist Catherine Price, as well as graphic novelist Cynthia Yuan Cheng, is a graphic novel aimed at young people instead of adults.

A brief prelude to the book lays out a not-so-subtle allegory: A bunch of "greedy" wizards have created stones that promise happiness in the form of "friendship, freedom, and fun." Eventually, the people who use the stones begin to feel as though they have lost all sense of happiness and fun.

It's the "rebels," first a few, soon many, who eventually band together and find strength in numbers to free themselves from the glittering gemstones that once largely imprisoned them.

If this sounds overly trite or simplistic, as a parent it's hard not to feel an essence of truth in the notion that certain forms of technology and their applications (iPhones, Chromebooks and tablets; video games, social media and YouTube) have transformed our children's and teenagers' lives and our experiences as parents, most often not for the better.

As the parent of a 10-year-old and a 14-year-old, I can say that not a week has gone by in nearly a decade that the use of such technologies hasn't led to some form of bickering or disagreement. And at this point it's clear that such is the experience of households all over the country.

## SCREEN TIME CALCULATOR THAT YOU CAN USE TO FREAK PEOPLE OUT

1 HOUR per DAY ≈	15 FULL DAYS PER YEAR
2 HOURS per DAY ≈	1 FULL MONTH PER YEAR
4 HOURS per DAY ≈	2 MONTHS PER YEAR
6 HOURS per DAY ≈	3 MONTHS PER YEAR
8 HOURS per DAY ≈	4 MONTHS PER YEAR
10 HOURS per DAY ≈	5 MONTHS PER YEAR

From *The Amazing Generation: Your Guide to Fun and Freedom in a Screen-Filled World* by Jonathan Haidt, Catherine Price and Cynthia Yuan Cheng

The second portion of the book is a fictional graphic novel tracking the lives of six young people, their relationships to themselves and one another, and the various technologies that mediate those interactions.

Like the allegory to the book, at times the fictional story feels obvious and

simplistic in its messaging. But it's hard, again, not to feel a tug of familiarity, as when heavy social media user Alex finally agrees to join his phoneless friend Jax at the skate park.

In a series of panels, we see Jax trying out different skating maneuvers in the background, by the end falling onto the ground after another heroic attempt. Jax's activities are juxtaposed against Alex's phone screen, on which he has concurrently been scrolling, from a nearby bench, first searching for skating tips then watching world championship skating highlights.

While it is often thrilling to have the world at your fingertips — my teenager learned how to handmake pasta with some help from YouTube, and I have happily spent precious hours online watching obscure interviews of some of my favorite writers — it's hard to deny the losses that accumulate when real life trial-and-error is supplanted by passive viewing. For many, the balance is clearly off.

From *The Amazing Generation: Your Guide to Fun and Freedom in a Screen-Filled World* by Jonathan Haidt, Catherine Price and Cynthia Yuan Cheng

What seems especially compelling about *The Amazing Generation* — which would work well as a classroom guide — is that it can get young people thinking more critically about the products that shape their everyday lives.

If the message of the book isn't subtle, it nonetheless feels like an important antidote to the daily pull and messaging of the online world. Real rebellions from young people won't follow paths clearly laid out by adults, but in this case it seems well beyond time to stir the pot.

# PANEURYTHMY

## Connecting to Nature and the Cosmos through the movement of Paneurythmy

We would love to start "dancing" the Paneurythmy movements together on Sunday mornings (9-9:45 am) from 15th February until the 22nd of March on the grass in the school grounds for parents, teachers and members of the community. If children come along with their parents, from the age of 9 years they are very welcome to join in. Younger children should be supervised or playing independently. If there is an interest we would love to offer Paneurythmy on a weekday (to be determined), to get in tune for the day before school starts, for parents and children (9 and older). It would be nice to have a start together on the 15th of February and if you can come on a regular basis you will profit the most but if you can not make it everytime anyone is wellcome to join in, just follow along....

Paneurythmy is a series of physical and musical exercises developed by Peter Deunov in Bulgaria between 1922 and 1944. The emphasis of the exercises is on giving and receiving, with the goal of creating a conscious exchange with the forces of nature and the cosmos leading to inner balance and harmonization.

There are 28 exercises followed by movements called the rays of the sun and the pentagram. We would start with the first 16 dances and see where it leads us. Paneurythmy is usually danced outside in nature from the spring to the autumn equinox. So we make a start now until the 22nd of March (weather permitting) and reconnect towards the end of September.

Various forms of Movement have been a passion all our lives which we love to share with you! Trevor and Karin Croll

### Paneurythmy

Sundays February 15th, 22nd , March 1st, 8th,15th, 22nd 9h-9:45h

at the Motueka Rudolf Steiner School, 165 Robinson Road, Lower Moutere

Contact us for any questions  
021 21 71 558 or  
trevor.scott.croll@gmail.com



# KINDERGARTEN

Welcome back everyone! Kindy has had a wonderful start, with lots of new children and families joining us. We also have two new staff members, Beba McLean and Phoebe Quinlivan who are both working in the office.

The garden has been busy growing and blooming over summer and is looking beautiful. Thank you to all of the wonderful parent helpers and volunteers who spend time nurturing this wonderful play space for the children.

We welcome back our wonderful teachers Akane and Melissa in the Tupu classroom, and Sarah and Ann in Pihi.

We are really looking forward to getting to know all of our new families and making lots of new friends!

We were blessed with rain, regarded as a spiritual gift from the heavens in Māori culture for our mihi whakatau. A mihi whakatau is a formal Māori welcome ceremony used to greet visitors (manuhiri) and unite them with hosts (tangata whenua).



## VACANCY: PLAYGROUP COORDINATOR

We are currently seeking expressions of interest for a Playgroup Coordinator.

The person holding this role is responsible for organising and facilitating our casual Friday playgroup which will resume later this term and run every Friday morning from 9am-12, during term time.

Please email Phoebe: [teamleader@mskindergarten](mailto:teamleader@mskindergarten) if you are interested.

# SING-ALONG CONCERT

**SATURDAY 14 FEBRUARY  
VALENTINES DAY  
11.00 am - 12.00 pm**

Shanti (Susan Jones) and Brit Rollo will entertain us with a concert of heartwarming songs and activities that will bring us together with the magic of music.

This fun concert is for children of all ages and the young at heart.

Children must be accompanied by an adult please.



Books will be available for purchase



Motueka Library Te Nonga Kumu  
Phone: 03 528 1047



# GET CRAFTY!

After School!

**Wednesday  
11, 18, 25 February  
3.30pm - 4.30pm**

We supply the materials you bring your imagination!



## 2 DAY POTTERY WORKSHOP

HOSTED BY AKANE  
@ STUDIO A

**1st session: 6<sup>th</sup> MARCH**  
Hand-built object  
Stamping + Surface decoration

**2nd session: 20<sup>th</sup> MARCH**  
Underglaze painting  
+ Brush on glazing



**\$80 PER SESSION**  
INCLUDES ALL MATERIALS,  
KILN FIRINGS &  
REFRESHMENTS

**SELECT EITHER:**  
AM GROUP: 9:00 - 11:30  
PM GROUP: 12:30 - 3:00

Email to register:  
valetta.sowka@gmail.com



## TINY HOME FOR SALE



**Asking price:  
\$199,000**

This 2 bedroom Ruru has 45m<sup>2</sup> of living space, including the 1st floor bedroom & mezzanine. The sleep-out is 3m x 5m which gives a total indoor living space of 60m<sup>2</sup>. The covered deck is 42m<sup>2</sup>

Included:

- Hobbit wood burner fire
- 4 burner gas stove, electric inbuilt oven
- Rinnai Infinity 16L califont
- 600mm dishwasher
- EarthWool insulation
- Screwless bamboo decking
- 25,000 litre Water tank

TO ARRANGE A VIEWING  
PLEASE TXT OR EMAIL:

**021 222 9187**

MattAndAnnelize@gmail.com

Located in the Tasman area, with the possibility of remaining on the land.