

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK



Art and Science are the two ways in which we interpret the mysteries of the world.
- Rudolf Steiner

Kia ora e te whānau

Today we celebrate the anniversary of Rudolf Steiner's birthday with gratitude for the wisdom and knowledge he shared with the world. We are reminded that the first Steiner/Waldorf school was established in Stuttgart in 1919 with 256 students in eight classes and grew to 897 students in 12 classes by 1925. There are currently approximately 1 200 Steiner/Waldorf schools in about 80 countries worldwide. Here at our beautiful school, we celebrated with the students building a big heart with flowers and foliage on the slope in front of the school and then forming the letters S T E I N E R below. Look out for a photo in our next newsletter.

SEANZ (Steiner Education Aotearoa New Zealand) annually compile the National Assessment Project in which they compare the standardised test results (PAT – Progressive Achievement Tests and STAR – Student Testing and Reporting) of all Steiner schools nationally with the NZ norm. This has been an on-going project

since 2009, reflecting academic standards in classes 4 – 9. Our school has been part of this assessment project since 2022. It gives us a clear picture of how our school as well as the other Steiner schools are doing in comparison with mainstream schools. You will notice that Steiner schools are doing very well indeed! Please see the graphs elsewhere in the newsletter.

Children learn best when they come to school in a calm and orderly manner in the morning. Coming to school unrushed, yet in time for the start of lessons promptly at 9:00 creates a settled and safe rhythm that facilitates optimal learning in the classroom. Likewise, neat and tidy clothes, hair combed and tied back if long, teeth brushed, faces washed, and nails short and clean, create respect for the learning environment and sets the tone for the day. A good, healthy breakfast completes the morning rhythm before setting off to school. It would be good if all children could come to school in this way to give them the best start to their daily school journey.

Ki te kotahi te kākaho ka whati ki te kāpuia e kore te whati.

Ngā mihi, Elizabeth



TERM DATES

Sunday 1 March	Working Bee	9:00-1:00 pm
Tuesday 17 March	School Board Mtg	5:00-7:00 pm
Monday 23 March	School Photos	
Wednesday 25 March	Proprietors Trust Mtg	7:00-8:00pm
Thursday 2 April	Last day term 1	

NATIONAL COMBINED DATA FOR ALL STEINER SCHOOLS:

**PAT Reading Comprehension Mean Scale Scores,
2021 to 2025**



**PAT Mathematics Test Mean Scale Score
Comparisons, 2021 to 2025**



**STAR Reading Test Mean Scale Score Results
Comparison for Classes 4 to 7 of Combined
Schools for Years 2021 to 2025**



**PAT Listening Mean Scale Score Comparisons:
Classes 4 to 9, 2023 - 2025**



**PAT Vocabulary Test Mean Scale Score
Comparison 2023 to 2025 with NZ Means**



Below is a graph indicating the achievement levels of our students last year:

Year level										
2025 Mathematics Mathematics Test 5: Y7, Y8, Y9										
2025 Reading Comprehension Reading Comprehension Test 5: Y7, Y8, Y9										
2025 Listening Comprehension Listening Comprehension Test 6: Y7, Y8, Y9										
2025 Reading Comprehension Reading Comprehension Test 3: Y5, Y6, Y7										
2025 Listening Comprehension Listening Comprehension Test 4: Y5, Y6, Y7										
2025 Listening Comprehension Listening Comprehension Test 3: Y4, Y5, Y6										
2025 Reading Comprehension Reading Comprehension Test 2: Y4, Y5, Y6										
2025 Reading Comprehension Reading Comprehension Test 4: Y6, Y7, Y8										
2025 Listening Comprehension Listening Comprehension Test 5: Y6, Y7, Y8										
Graph key	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Average stanine
Y5				11%(2)	11%(2)	28%(5)	11%(2)	17%(3)	22%(4)	6.78
Y6				6%(1)	22%(4)	28%(5)	11%(2)	33%(6)		6.44
Y7			11%(1)	44%(4)	22%(2)	22%(2)				4.56
Y8			3%(2)	31%(22)	21%(15)	18%(13)	6%(4)	22%(16)		6.57
#Pupils	0%(0)	0%(0)	3%(3)	6%(7)	26%(20)	23%(27)	15%(17)	11%(13)	17%(20)	(117)
National norms	Low 4%	Below average 19%		Average 54%			Above average 19%		Outstanding 4%	
Percentage for these pupils	0%	3%		55%			26%		17%	

CLASSROOM CORNER

MOANA

Class 4 and 5 started the year with the History of Writing main lesson in preparation for writing with fountain pens.

The students have loved learning how to make beautiful recycled paper from all our used paper scraps, how to make ink from plants, and quill pens from feathers.



Once started, it was hard to stop them from practising their writing and making their paper throughout lunchtime and beyond!

The will-based activities in the Steiner-Waldorf curriculum create excitement, encourage engagement and ignite a passion for learning. Based on Steiner's pedagogical indication to first experience, then understand, we can see how experiential learning facilitates a relationship to the topic and to the world that is not present to the same degree in an approach which is based simply on the communication of information. This is enlivened learning – head, heart and hands – and by creating relationships to the world contributes to free and living thinking.

Blessing

Step by step paper making with Quinn and Abel



1 Soak recycled shredded paper in a water for 2-3 days



4 Place on a towel and piece of fabric. Soak excess water with sponge.



2 Use a hand blender and turn into pulp.



5 Slowly reveal!



3 Submerge your paper making screen and lift to create an even layer



6 Hang to dry in the air

Note: Customise your paper by adding colour, dried petals, etc.

OUTDOOR CLASSROOM WITH LINDSEY

Ahi class had a wonderful start to the year in the outdoor classroom as the new 'seniors'. They have been a collaborative bunch and I have enjoyed already observing them helping each other out, lifting each other up and learning together as a team; 'AKO' learning together and from each other is a huge piece of their journey in this space with me.



We have been concentrating on fire management, weaving and working on our hand brushes. This project has many stages which include: carving, drilling, sanding, cordage and making bristles. Then of course they have to put all that together! It is a great starting project for term one as we settle into the space around us and set up our year ahead



as a community. Each week we also have a dedicated cooking team that cooks something delicious for us on the fire for lunch. We reflect together at the end of the session as a 'closing' to our work; an important piece

to let the learning settle within the students. We are all excited about the year ahead in this beautiful spot in nature.

Lindsey

SCHOOL NOTICES

WORKING BEE

Come and join us this Sunday for our termly working bee! The wet summer has brought a lot of life to our campus and we are in great need of volunteers to keep up with it. Let's foster kaitiakitanga and community connections.



Date: Sunday 1 March
Time: 9:00am to 1:00pm



Bring: brimmed hat, sunscreen and water bottle (and tools for completing the jobs you sign up for)
Morning tea will be provided at 11am
Lunch (nacho bowl) will be provided Kohatu)

Sign up here: <https://signup.zone/signup/efc9ac78-27ae-4bf5-9093-5d205b9a19e2>

Don't miss out on the Kindergarten, plant nursery and school garden sign-up sheets. You can also turn up for an hour or two. Any help is appreciated.

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.

ACCOMMODATION NEEDED FOR NOLEE

We are looking for a host family that can accommodate our German support teacher, Nolee from April to mid August. Preferably in town, but open to other areas. As an exchange, Nolee is able to work one day a week doing gardening, light house chores, babysitting, etc.

THE WEAVERS

The Weavers are inviting you to come together at the upcoming *Coffee Connection Catch Ups* on Thursday afternoons 5th March, 19th March, and 2nd April.

We'll have hot drinks and fresh baking available from 2.30pm, creating the perfect space to connect with fellow parents, old and new friends - everyone welcome.

This is a parent initiative; come and chat to us if you'd like to join our little group.

Love from Anna, Karuna & Dunja



PLANTING SEEDS OF CONFIDENCE

By Penni Sparks

I would wish anyone the opportunity to spend a year at the front of a 5th grade class! By this time, the students have developed skills in every area of study that was presented to both boys and girls in the School of Pythagoras of Ancient Greece, where all children were challenged to a full range of capacities from geometry to grammar to debate to movement to the arts, and they completed each with beauty, grace, and style.



We have the opportunity to plant the seeds of each of these capacities when we educate our children mindfully in the 5th grade. There is no need for specialization, as is practiced in the animal world. We as human beings can do anything we put our effort into! These seeds are the source of confidence in self and an attitude of "yes, I'll try that," which make expanding knowledge and deepening curiosity habits for life.

We can create a most colorful tapestry during the 5th grade year, weaving so many varying skills of hues and intensities, when we remember these young beings are capable of everything. It is up to us to make each challenge worthy and not give-in to allowing mediocrity or incomplete work. We help them "tie-off the ends" when we create time to honor the skill of completing projects in every subject and finishing pages in our many Main Lesson Books, wordlessly offering each an experience of the sense of satisfaction.

In the 5th grade play *Pythagoras*, by Eugene Schwartz, Pythagoras spoke these wise words as their teacher:

I can only sow the seeds

I cannot make the plants grow faster

You will overcome the weeds

When your passions you can master.

Nothing ripens without patience.

As gardeners of these growing, young people, our task is to plow the fields and sow the seeds for every fruit of will and soul we wish them to harvest in the future. Some of the seeds we can plant are: how to take responsibility for a task not completed; how to work in a group; how to take responsibility for a mistake; how to work independently; how to follow directions exactly; and how to create beautiful, balanced, complete, accurate work.

Caution: This is the year of simply planting the seeds, not mastering their growth. That comes in the 6th grade when we start perfecting our skills. We watch for progress, not perfection.

If you're looking for some practical activities to keep your seedlings growing healthily, try some of these, and please tell me of the ones you've added:

- *Have them write beautiful notes, perfectly spelled, beautifully written, no matter what the occasion.
- *Have them make beautiful, handmade cards for birthdays and thank-yous.
- *Have them make out the grocery list, perfectly spelled and beautifully written.
- *Challenge them to use the thesaurus (a great gift idea) to choose a stronger word to express themselves.
- *Have them use the dictionary to find spellings and to find out the true meanings (etymologies) of words.
- *Have them write a newsy, lengthy letter to a grandparent or other family member.
- *Have them answer the phone clearly and politely.
- *Have them greet and thank hosts (other parents or teachers) clearly and politely.
- *Have them speak at all times, clearly and politely; clear speech leads to stronger spelling skills.
- *Have them do physical tasks to be of service to the family, without pay.
- *Have them help you with dinner or clean-up; they're all quite capable of doing careful, thorough work anyone would be proud of. Let them show you!
- *Go for a walk with them in the park or forest and let them show you what they've come to know about the plant world.
- *Play games with dice or learn Cribbage to help them practice adding.
- *Have them do the mental math for you at the grocery store, in cooking, in building, in estimating costs, time, or gas mileage.

No matter what you ask of them, expect confidence, clarity, and carefulness. Be truthful -- if it's not well done, let them know, and ask that it be done again beautifully and precisely. At this age there is no benefit in letting them get away with sloppiness or inaccuracy. We don't expect perfection, however we can help them know the joy of progress from sound effort.

This is one path of planting the Seeds of Confidence.

Confidence is a word whose root meaning comes from 'con' meaning 'with' and 'fidere' meaning 'faith or trust.' In other words, confidence means "with faith." We have the chance to develop faith or trust in one's self. What an honor; what a task!

<https://www.waldorfhandwork.org/post/planting-seeds-of-confidence>

UPDATE FROM THE MARKET GARDEN



Are you a Veda Organics customer yet?

Veda is a Motueka Rudolf Steiner School Trust-owned business.

We now offer easy weekly \$50 or \$80 seasonal vege box subscriptions, filled with fresh produce from the School Farm and set up with automatic payment.

Sign up here:

<https://www.vedicorganics.co.nz/deliveries> or email vedaorganicsnz@gmail.com for more information.

We're also looking for helpers for veggie box packing: email us or join our WhatsApp group 022 192 8584.

Market Garden Mondays are on 9am-3pm! Drop in anytime and lend a hand (please just message to let us know you're coming).

Currently harvesting: tomatoes, carrots, cucumbers, courgettes, spinach and beetroot!

Valetta & Mihau

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

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Rental Available

Medium to long term rental available from mid April in central Motueka.

Ideal for 1 or 2 quiet, respectful, working tenants. Fully self-contained 1-bedroom/1 living room space with a separate bathroom and kitchenette.

Washing machine and brand-new heat pump.

Please email Ange a.throner@gmail.com for more info or call 021 02518729.

House for Sale

Upper Moutere, Neudorf Rd property with 2 dwellings (older 5 bedroom and eco 2 bedroom) and 7 acres of beauty, awaits a new owner, or possible land share ownership arrangement. Suitable to those interested in land work, as it has a few thousand trees, fruit, nut, firewood, amenity, timber, screening. From flats to mostly gentle slopes, rural views over Neudorf Valley. Managed for 25-35 years organically. 15km from Steiner school. Please contact Peter @ hazelnuss24@gmail.com

Tiny House for Sale

TINY HOME FOR SALE

Asking price: \$199,000

This 2 bedroom Ruru has 45m² of living space, including the 1st floor bedroom & mezzanine. The sleep-out is 3m x 5m which gives a total indoor living space of 60m². The covered deck is 42m²

Included:

- Hobbit wood burner fire
- 4 burner gas stove, electric inbuilt oven
- Rinnai Infinity 16L calfont
- 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.

Outdoor Classroom - Experiential Learning Teacher & Practitioner Training Course 2026

Course Structure

- 7 online (Zoom) tutorial sessions, Wednesday evenings (7.30-9.30pm)
March 24 & 31; April 21 & 28; May 5, 12 & 19

Cost: \$450

- Craft Immersion Camp (Auckland)
April 13–16

Cost: \$650

Course Content and Skills

You will develop:

- Localisation of curriculum strategies
- Integration of outdoor and indoor learning
- Links with the environment as an agent in learning and teaching
- An understanding of the learning journey using traditional crafts
- Deep cultural sensitivity and appropriateness
- Reflective practice
- An understanding of whole-person intelligence and how the literacies of making and growing support full human development
- Health and safety and risk benefit analysis practices
- Earth, Water, Fire and Air themed activities, eg campfire cooking skills

**“Tell me, I’ll forget. Show me, I’ll remember.
Involve me, I’ll understand.”**

To enrol, or to request further information

email: lawry.john@gmail.com

Phone: 021 125 7817

Registrations close Friday, 27 February 2026

Building Communication Bridges Inside & Out

Spaceholder

Ellen Appleton



I have been part of Building Communication Bridges for three years. Finding connection by speaking with clarity, being heard and listening with my heart matters deeply to me. I have been a part of the

Motueka community for more than 20 years. I offer and support spaces where people learn and practise communication skills and by doing so enrich their lives and strengthen connection and community.

Co-Spaceholders

Sebastian Norton
&
Mia Ruby Plum



Have you ever had a situation where the other person heard something completely different to what you thought you said? Are you ready to authentically respond rather than impulsively react? Perhaps you are even ready to leave the communication minefield behind and make the shift into elegantly loving, collaborative communication?

Despite our best intentions, old patterns and communication styles can create insurmountable gaps. In this two hour discovery we will explore why communications break down, and practice new ways of listening and connecting, so that you can create the authentic relationships you really want.

Join us to discover and find clarity on what powerful tools and new perspectives are on offer at the weekend workshop happening on the 28th and 29th of March at Riverside.

Session One

Date and Time

Tues 3rd March 2026 | 7:30-9:30pm

Location

Motueka Steiner School
165 Robinson Road, Lower Moutere

Session Two

Date and Time

Sat 7th March 2026 | 10-11:30am

Location

Motueka Library
132 Wallace Street, Motueka

Koha
Welcomed

BUILDING COMMUNICATION BRIDGES
INSIDE & OUT

BUILDING COMMUNICATION BRIDGES INSIDE & OUT

Despite our best intentions, old patterns and communication styles can create insurmountable gaps.

Building Communication Bridges - Inside and Out is a multi-day workshop designed to explore new ways of communicating and connecting with ourselves and others. Join me and a group of radical change-makers to discover your truth, maximise your resources and create new results, all while feeling supported in your transformation journey.

You know that plants grow or don't grow because of the soil... did you know that relationships grow (or don't grow) because of communication?

Do you long to be heard?

Do you get stuck in reactivity and blame?

Are you hungry for connection and authenticity?

In this two-day training, we offer a deep dive into your unconscious patterns and survival strategies to find what you are holding back and what you are really bringing to your communications.

From there you will learn how to create ever more connected, authentic relating spaces in your life so that you can play your part in growing out the regenerative culture that Earth so desperately needs...



janetredmond.com

I'm Janet, a possibility manager, and building communication bridges trainer. I'm a Space Holder for Learning, Healing, Growth, Aliveness & Fun. I turn obstacles into opportunities, conflict into creative results, and pain into possibility.

Apprentice Spaceholders

Ellen Appleton



Mia Ruby



Sebastian Norton



28 / 29 Mar 2026

9:30am - 5:00pm

Training fee \$395.00

Sliding scale or payment plans available on request.

Motueka

Riverside Community Hall
289 Main Road Lower Moutere

Register online
www.b.link/bcb



MUDDY BUDDY

Adventure Fun Run

SUNDAY 15TH MARCH 2026

FOOD | COFFEE | SILENT AUCTION | WHITE ELEPHANT STALL & MORE!

GREAT SPOT PRIZES!

PRIZES FOR THE BEST ECO DRESS-UP!

EARLYBIRD / ONLINE | \$20 per person | \$50 family
ENTER ON THE DAY | \$25 per person | \$55 per family
SIGN IN 10.30-12pm | RACE STARTS 12.30pm

Image Credit: Ida Fitzsimons

EACH LAP APPROX 1KM | 1 LAP - Kids, Family Fun, Open | 2 Laps - Open | 3 Laps - Open

www.tasman.school.nz

2 DAY POTTERY WORKSHOP

HOSTED BY AKANE
@ STUDIO A

1st session: 6th MARCH
Hand-built object
Stamping + Surface decoration

2nd session: 20th 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