

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK



*Four things we can never recover:
The stone after it is thrown
The word after it is said
The occasion after it is missed
The time after it is gone*

Traditional Proverb

Kia ora e te whānau

We had a great cross-country day here on our beautiful farm campus on Friday 29 May. The weather could not have been better, and our tamariki participated with enthusiasm and determination. A special mention to our Ahi students for pulling out all the stops and for running at full speed! A big thank you to Miss Terry for organising the event and for reminding everyone to have fun! We are very grateful to all the parents for cheering so enthusiastically from the sidelines and for assisting us with monitoring the students along the way. And congratulations to all the parents who bravely participated in the parents' race!

On Friday afternoon, 5 June, we had a delightful little music concert at which some of our students showcased their musical talent on the violin, piano,

harp, and recorder. The school choir sang sweetly in clear voices, and it was heart-warming to experience such beautiful music. Thank you, Blessing, for organising it.

A number of reminders of upcoming events this term:

- Our Parent Enrichment afternoon on Wednesday 24 June from 3:15 – 4:15. Please sign up for either Outdoor Classroom or Handwork via the sign-up sheet. Childcare will be provided.
- Please ensure that you attend the parent-teacher interviews with the class teachers. If you have not already done so, please sign up with your respective class teachers.
- Mid-year reports will be issued in the last week of term. You will notice that they look slightly different from last year's reports, as we are now using the new descriptors from the Ministry of Education.
- And finally, a reminder of our Lantern Festival and Matariki Celebration on Thursday 2 July at 5:15 pm.

Matariki tāpuapua.

Ngā mihi, Elizabeth



TERM DATES

Friday 12 June	Interschool Cross Country	10:15 am
Wednesday 24 June	Parent Enrichment Afternoon	3:15 pm
Friday 26 June	Kōhatu Lantern Festival	5:30 pm
Thursday 2 July	Lantern Festival and Matariki Celebration	5:15pm
Friday 3 July	Last day term 2	
Monday 20 July	First day term 3	

CLASSROOM CORNER

PUTIPUTI

As autumn has turned to winter, Class 1 and 2 enjoyed spending time in the garden and outdoor classroom, observing the changes in our environment and learning about the seasons around us.

A special project this term has been designing and sewing our own *Farm Journals*. Each week, the children record what is happening around the garden and farm, creating a wonderful record of their learning. Their journals are filled with observations and reflections about composting, caring for our worm farm, autumn leaves mulching, preparing the gardens for winter, and celebrating the arrival of the new season. This week, the children were especially excited to welcome six-day old chicks to school. The chicks have quickly become the centre of attention, and the children have loved observing them and writing about them in their journals.



Our outdoor mathematics programme has also been full of hands-on learning. The children created impressive multiplication rings to strengthen their understanding of times tables. More recently, they designed their own bowling alleys and learned how to score a game of bowls. This engaging activity provided a fun and practical way to practise numeracy skills, including addition, subtraction, and simple carrying.

It has been wonderful to see the children's creativity and curiosity shine through these hands-on learning experiences.

Ngā mihi nui,
Jolie



HANDWORK



We are almost halfway through the year and it is good to see everybody busy in handwork finishing the first project of the year and happily starting the next.

With winter setting in, now is the perfect time to craft together in the evenings or on wet windy weekend days. Children love to see parents knitting and sewing with them and it is a good family bonding time.

For the first time handwork is being offered as a parent enrichment session and I am looking forward to meeting the parents who come along to get an idea of what handwork is about and make an amazing item to take home.

Davina

MATCHBOX CASTLE



The time has come again for treasures to be made for the matchbox castle, that will make its appearance at the spring fair. Last year we made over \$800 and this year it would good to do so again. Michelle Ambrose and myself have cut out over 500 small items to be sewn and would be great if most could be completed by the spring. We have them waiting at the office in groups of ten, some are easy and some are a little involved. Come and see if there is anything you might be interested in doing and help make a memory that a child can keep for a life time.

Thank you so much

MSS CROSS COUNTRY



SCHOOL CONCERT



SCHOOL NOTICES

REMINDERS

Parent Enrichment Afternoon

Wednesday 24 June 3:15-4:15pm

Sign up: <https://forms.gle/ByKwf3EYtHJaoEMJ6>

2027 Class Structure Survey

<https://forms.gle/6oQr7CtESUnkRewy6>

Closes: 18 June

Concerns and Complaints procedure

<https://motuekasteiner.school.nz/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/ConcernsComplaintsFlowchart.pdf>

Or visit [Motuekasteiner.school.nz](https://motuekasteiner.school.nz), Key info

VOLUNTEERING POSITIONS

Thank you to Sarah Richards (kindergarten teacher and school parent) for offering to volunteer as our school librarian! We are so lucky to have you in that space. Library is open every Thursday from 1:00 to 1:30 pm.

WANTED: After-School Sports Coordinator

We're looking for someone to organise our after-school sports programme for the rest of the year. This is a good time to begin as we prepare for term 3.

If sports is your thing, you enjoy organising, or you're keen to support our wonderful school community, we'd love to hear from you!

NATIVE TREE NURSERY

Another planting season has come! This year the following plants are available for sale:

Five fingers (200)
Akeake - red (100)
Akeake - green (64)
Swamp flax (26)
Geminata (160)
Harakeke (160)
Lemonwood (40)
Coprosma (50)
and more!



Plants are \$2 each and available to purchase from the school. Please contact us via email to arrange the details.

tree.nursery.group@motuekasteiner.school.nz

All the funds raised from the school tree nursery this year will go to Ahi end of year graduation camp. Thank you so much for your continuous support for our rangatahi!

Ahi class whanau native tree nursery team

Spring Fair

Our Spring Fair (20 September 2026) is our biggest fundraiser of the year, and it only works because of you.

This Fair relies entirely on our community showing up. It is one of the commitments we all take on when we join this school, and right now we would appreciate your help.

We are still looking for coordinators in the following areas:

- Fairyland
- Medieval Games
- Food; one more person needed to support the existing coordinator

Fairyland is based in the Kohatu & Kindergarten areas. If your child is in one of those classes, this is your chance to be right at the heart of it. Creating the magic they will remember.

Coordinators don't work alone. You will have a team behind you, and full support in the lead-up and on the day. If it helps, pair up with a friend – it's always better to do these things together.

Want to know more? Please get in touch. We are happy to walk you through what's involved.

Many hands make light work. Let's make this one to remember.

Dunja

On behalf of the Spring Fair
Steering Committee



HOW DEVELOPERS ARE MAKING AI YOUR KID'S THIRD PARENT

Joshua Van Lange

The CEOs of Anthropic and OpenAI admit AI is like a parent nobody can resist, while teachers' unions support Big Tech's rule. Under Roman law a father held a legal power called *patria potestas*, or "total ownership," of his children.

He could sell them, deny them property, or abandon a newborn on a hillside.

The child was not a person but property under the law.

What a surprise then that the so-called "paternalistic" Apostle Paul upended five centuries of that system in a single verse when he wrote "Fathers do not exasperate your children; instead bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4).

Roman law already demanded obedience to the father under *pater familias*.

So, Paul's revolutionary challenge to the system was not to challenge obedience, but rather to tell the man holding absolute power he had a duty to the best interests of the child rather than himself.

Paul's words to the Ephesians shaped Western family law for two millennia, including modern American case law (see *Pierce v. Society of Sisters*, 1925; *Wisconsin v. Yoder*, 1972).

But today a different authority has moved into the space between parent and child; not a patriarch but an "aithority" — an algorithm built by the largest technology corporations on earth and dropped into American classrooms through a partnership with the teachers unions.

Nobody sent a permission slip home.

The scale of "the aithority" in schools is already exasperating. In late 2025, Google announced its Gemini AI education tools had reached more than 10 million students across more than 1,000 U.S. institutions.

The company rolled out more than 150 new AI features in a single year, trained more than 1 million educators for free, and embedded AI tutoring modules directly into Google Classroom.

Separately, Google invested \$1 billion in college-level AI integration.

In June 2025 the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), the second-largest teachers union in the country, announced a partnership with OpenAI, Microsoft, and Anthropic to accelerate AI adoption in classrooms nationwide.

That deal was negotiated between union leadership and three of the most powerful AI companies on earth. Parents were not at the table.

AI's Values

In AI systems, "features" are not merely technical upgrades. They are a moral takeover, and the people building the technology know it.

In January, Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei published a [20,000-word essay](#) called "The Adolescence of Technology," in which he called AI such a "glittering prize" that it is "very difficult for human civilization to impose any restraints on it at all."

He described Anthropic's approach to controlling its Claude AI through what the company calls Constitutional AI, where developers write a "central document of values" the model reads to form its identity.

Under current FTC guidance, AI companies can simply assume the school has obtained parental consent. Jones found that in practice "most parents have absolutely no idea what applications or technologies their children are using in school."

But your child's third parent AI surely knows that it is exasperating your child, right?
Wrong.

The results are already showing.

A November 2025 Cal Matters' investigation found that after Google deployed its AI-powered Lens tool on student Chromebooks in Los Angeles, one teacher watched his students' grades spike overnight.

The students were not learning more. The AI was doing their work.

"Teachers and school leaders spend countless hours considering each detail of the learning experience," the teacher said, "then Google totally undermines it with the click of a button." Google quietly disabled the feature after the story ran.

But at least the people building these tools seem to understand the problem when their own families are involved. A 2011 New York Times investigation found that the chief technology officer of eBay and employees of Google, Apple, Yahoo, and Hewlett-Packard were sending their kids to the Waldorf School of the Peninsula in Los Altos, California.

No computers. No screens.

The teaching tools were pens, paper, knitting needles, and mud.

Bill Gates and Steve Jobs also raised their children in low-tech households.

By 2019, the Waldorf model was operating in more than 1,000 schools across 91 countries.

The executives who design the AI being lobbied into your child's public school pay premium tuition to keep this third parent away from their own kids.

Congressional and Parental Action

There is movement in Washington. Sen. Bill Cassidy's LIFE with AI Act aims to strengthen student privacy protections and require parental notification before schools use AI tools.

Sens. Josh Hawley and Richard Blumenthal have introduced the bipartisan GUARD Act to require age verification on AI chatbots targeting minors.

To continue reading visit:

<https://thefederalist.com/2026/02/20/how-developers-are-making-ai-your-kids-third-parent-in-the-classroom/>



Motueka Steiner Kindergarten

The kindergarten is pleased to announce that it has reinstated an official playgroup this term, held in one of the kindergarten rooms on Fridays from 9am-12pm during term time.

Julia Bellamy, whom many of you will know as mother to school children River and Stella is our wonderful playgroup facilitator. Julia has a background in Early Childhood Education and ran the Steiner Playgroup in Te Tairāwhiti, Gisborne for a number of years.

The session has a gentle rhythm of baking bread, free play, then coming together for storytime and shared kai, and then home time.

This playgroup is best suited to young children from birth to 4 years, and their caregivers. We currently have a few spaces available. If you are interested in attending please email office@mskindergarten.nz or call us on 03 528 6453, and we can provide you with more details - we would love to hear from you!



COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Short-term rental available

We've got a three-bedroom home in central Motueka available for short-term rent from mid-June through to spring, with the possibility of extending for the right family. It's fully furnished and would ideally suit a family relocating to the area and needing somewhere to settle in, or anyone after a comfortable short-term base.

A few details:

Three bedrooms, fully furnished
Great for families, central Motueka location
Available mid-June, flexible end date

Happy to send through photos or chat to anyone who might be interested. Please contact Sumaia sumaiaawalshkelly@hotmail.com

MOTUEKA HIGH SCHOOL Become a Host Family & Welcome the World into Your Home!



Motueka High School is looking for **warm, caring** families to host international students from around the world! Hosting a student is a **rewarding** experience that allows you to:

- ✓ **Experience a new culture** without leaving home
- ✓ **Build friendships** with students and their families
- ✓ **Share Kiwi hospitality** and your way of life
- ✓ **Receive a fortnightly financial reimbursement**

You won't be doing this alone—our international team provides full support to ensure both you and your student have the best experience possible.



What's involved?

- ✓ Providing a **safe, welcoming home**
- ✓ Including the student as part of your family
- ✓ Supporting them as they adjust to life in New Zealand

Hosting is a life-changing experience for both students and families! Whether you have **teenagers at home or an empty nest**, have a **spare room inside your home** and all persons over 18 complete police vetting, we'd love to hear from you.

Contact Fiona Bryan today to find out more! ☺
☎ 021 147 4639 | ✉ fiona.bryan@motuekahigh.school.nz
see www.motuekahigh.school.nz for more details



Motueka Steiner School



We welcome new enrolments throughout the year for all classes.

The Sauna Project Motueka

Blue Gums ~ Motueka River
Seaside ~ Ruby Bay

Book at:

www.bookwhen.com/motuekasauna

for 15% off use code:
Steiner - on single passes
(until 31 August 26)

SAUNA TOGETHER ~ FEEL BETTER

A New Ensemble Opportunity at NCMA

We at NCMA are excited to be exploring the launch of **Preschola Strings**, a new ensemble for young string players who are developing their skills and looking for the next step in their musical journey.

Led by the team behind Schola Musica, Preschola Strings will provide a supportive and enjoyable group-learning environment for students working at approximately **Grades 2–4** on their instruments.

This programme is designed to help students:

- Experience the fun of playing music with others
- Develop listening and ensemble skills
- Build confidence as musicians
- Work towards joining Schola Musica in the future (entry to Schola Musica remains by audition/selection)

Proposed Details

- **When:** Thursdays, 4:00 pm
- **Level:** Grades 2–4 (Strings)
- **Group Size:** Approximately 6 students and up
- **Lesson Length:** 45 minutes
- **Cost:** Approximately \$4 per session, billed monthly, plus NCMA Membership of \$45 per year

We are hoping to launch the group in **Term 3**, subject to sufficient interest.

If you have a child who is interested in participating, please reply to this email and let us know, or send through an enquiry to our team at <https://ncma.nz/learn/student-enquiry/>

We look forward to hearing from you and developing this exciting new opportunity for our young string players.

Have a wonderful afternoon!

Contact: Dean St Germain dean@ncma.nz



Introductory Information about our Class 9 (Year 10) Farm Experience Programme

Monday 7 September to Friday 18 September

Kia ora,

For over 20 years, Raphael House Rudolf Steiner School in Wellington has proudly run the highly valued Class 9 Farm Experience Programme as part of the Waldorf/Steiner Curriculum.

Each year, our Class 9 rangatahi/youth spend two weeks living and working on rural properties throughout Aotearoa, learning through practical experience, meaningful work, and immersion in rural life. Over the years, this programme has become a treasured and transformative experience for many young people.

We are continually inspired by the generosity and hospitality shown by farming families who open their homes and share their knowledge with our rangatahi. We are fortunate to have several host farmers who have supported the programme for more than 20 years.

This year we have a particularly large Class 9 cohort compared with previous years and **are actively seeking additional farms to help support the programme.**

For a full description of the programme please email Motueka Steiner school office.



**TARUNA
COLLEGE**
Connect. Nourish. Sustain.

Supportive Therapies 31 July - 2 August 2026

As a nurse, therapist or caregiver we invite you to register for this three-day workshop focussed on practical, effective care and intervention strategies. Come and be a part of widening the circle of those offering supportive therapies in the community. Through our learning process, healing plants and external treatments will become familiar to you, preparing you to assess and safely work with the therapies based on a sound rationale.

In addition we introduce

- biography work
- the inner path of the nurse or therapist
- casework to help with individualised care across various situations and settings, and
- an anthroposophic approach to therapy.

Cost: \$575 all materials, refreshments and lunch included

Tutors: Deborah Bednarek RN MN ANS and Michelle Vette RN MN ANS

We welcome your registration by visiting our website: www.taruna.ac.nz or contact us on 06 8777174