

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK



*If you want your children to be intelligent, read them fairy tales.
If you want them to be very intelligent, read them more fairy tales.*

Attributed to Albert Einstein

Kia ora e te whānau

There is a well-known story of a woman who was a personal friend of the scientist, Dr. Albert Einstein. Motivated partly by her admiration for him, she held hopes that her son might become a scientist. One day she asked Dr. Einstein's advice about the kind of reading that would best prepare the child for this career. To her surprise, the scientist recommended 'Fairy tales and more fairy tales.' The mother protested that she was really serious about this and she wanted a serious answer; but Dr. Einstein persisted, adding *that creative imagination is the essential element in the intellectual equipment of the true scientist, and that fairy tales are the childhood stimulus to this quality.*

I had the privilege of browsing through some of the children's main lesson books recently and was once again astonished at the beautiful work I saw in these books. The children's dedication to producing work of a

high quality attest to the teachers' imaginative lesson presentations and to the essence of Steiner Waldorf education in the primary years – addressing the developing feeling life of the child through stories and the imagination. I am hopeful that many of our tamariki will turn out to be scientists of some sort or another!

A big thank you to Davina and Lindsey for running the Handwork and Outdoor Classroom sessions on Wednesday. Warm camaraderie was enjoyed by all either over wet felt or around the fire.

A reminder that Simone Hamblett, the Eurythmy teacher from Christchurch, will be offering *Social Eurythmy* on Sunday 23 August. Please see details further on in the newsletter. And a further reminder of the *Art Therapy* workshop with Marije Laarakker on Monday 31 August. Please use the sign-up sheet further on in the newsletter to register your attendance.

Mā te huruhuru ka kere te manu
Ngā mihi, Elizabeth



TERM DATES

Monday 31 August	Parent Enrichment Workshop #2	3:15 pm
Monday 31 August	School Board Meeting	5:00 pm
Saturday 19 September	Spring Fair Set up	All day
Sunday 20 September	SPRING FAIR 	10:00 am
Monday 21 September	Teacher Only Day and Spring Fair tidy up	
Friday 25 September	Last day term 3	
Monday 12 October	First day term 4	

CLASSROOM CORNER

MOANA

Class 4 and 5 have been immersed in the epic story of the Ramayana and the culture of Ancient India. Yoga and dancing have featured in our morning routines, as well as bhajans (devotional songs) to our favourite deities. Planning for a glorious Indian feast to end our main lesson is under way!



Kolams are an artform done in India requiring a steady hand and eye as the intricate geometric shapes are created in rice powder on the ground for good luck. After practising on paper, we tried our skills on the court!



Diyas are small clay oil lamps often made at Diwali, the festival that celebrates Rama's victory over the Demon King Ravan and his return to Ayodhya to become king. Our little lamps are almost ready.



Class 4 and 5 have also loved having Allan, from Volleyball NZ come to teach them the game and they look forward to participating in some inter-school tournaments.

Blessing

HANDWORK

This time of year is an amazing time in handwork as many projects started in term one, are now coming to an end.

In Class 1, snails have been completed and most children have started on their recorder cases.

Class 2 child are enjoying knitting their animals with lambs, lions and pigs being popular animals of choice.



Class 3 are very busy embroidering their pencil case while Class 4 are cross stitching a panel for their fountain pen case.



Class 5 are experiencing their last knitting challenge of a hat knitted on 5 needles.

The girls in class 6 have just about finished their animal project and are moving onto the dragon project, while Class 7 have completed making and designing their own bags.



I can't wait to see more finished projects in the months to come.

Davina

SCHOOL NOTICES

PARENT ENRICHMENT WORKSHOP # 2

Art Therapy

**Monday 31 August 3:15 to 4:15 pm
with Marije Laarakker**



*"How do I take my place, how
do I hold space for myself"*

*Therapeutic and social art ex-
ercises with clay, to reflect on
how we place ourself in this
world, in a group, in a team,
and on how we can create a safe space where
we can recharge.*

Sign up:

<https://forms.gle/V6q4mBoMed78pxqW6>

THE TWELVE SENSES AND SENSORY INTEGRATION

book for sale

The Twelve Senses and Sensory Integration, written by Robyn Ritchie, Paediatric Occupational Therapist, former parent of the school, and now a grandmother of the school.



As an Occupational Therapist, I have worked with this concept of a circle of 12 senses, over a period of more than 50 years. Over this time I have given many talks and lectures attempting to bring together our current under-

standing of the senses and sensory processing with Steiner's work, which retains its validity and advances what we can understand about our development and our humanity.

If you would like a copy, please contact the school office. The cost is \$45.

NATIVE TREE NURSERY

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

✂The plants are \$2 each and sold in bundles of 4 in root trainers.

Five fingers (90)
Akeake - red (80)
Akeake - green (16)
Harakeke (90)
Swamp flax (6)
Geminata (40)
Cabbage tree (80)
Coprosma (125) - this number
includes some 2 year old larger sizes available in
individual pots at \$4 each



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

GARDEN NEEDS

Kia ora whānau,

Once again, our gardening projects are looking for some resources that you may have spare.

We are looking for:

- bird netting
- wooden stakes to put up the netting
- any pond plants - please
- a few more half mussel buoys
- A bucket or 2 of compost worms

We had some great donations of mussel buoys and baths, last time, so thank you very much!

They have all been well used.

Nā mātou Katia,
ngā kaimāra,

From all us, gardeners.



Spring Fair 2026

Dear families,

The Spring Fair is 5 weeks away: 20th of September!

If you haven't already, please signup here:

<https://signup.zone/MSS-SpringFair2026>

Big or small, your contribution is crucial.

If you have questions about a role, please reach out to the relevant coordinator (listed on the signup form) or contact Dunja on 021 0220 6393.

Food and drinks area is in need of a chilly bins and ice coordinator. Will need a spacious car/van to collect large chilli bins a few days prior to event. Cleaning chilli bins prior and post fair. Ensuring ice is collected on the day. For more info contact Sorie 020 40345527

Food Stalls money donations

Donations of ingredients for our food stalls are hard to get.

When ingredients are donated, the school doesn't have to pay GST on the sales of that stall (15% of the stall takings), it can make a huge difference!

We are calling families and the wider community to donate money or pay some bills to buy these ingredients. Please contact if you can help

The donated amounts below would save 15% GST on sales:

Milk: \$83 (would save \$640 GST!)

BLT Buns: \$160 (would save \$250 GST)

Ice Cream: \$400 (would save \$330 GST)

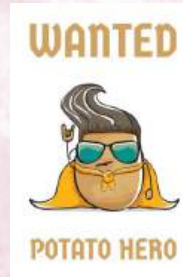
Sausages: \$360 (would save \$190 GST)

Bacon: \$225 (would save \$200 GST)

Contact:
Caroline 021 053 0837 or Sorie at the office
(Food Coordinators)

WANTED:

patatas stall holder



You will be guided and supported by previous stall holders; it involves gathering all the equipment needed, finding and coordinating your helpers from preparing the patatas to frying up a storm. Pretty simple operation with great financial returns for the school

Marketing Coordinator

Our beautiful event needs promotion! There is a number of key jobs related to marketing the Fair. If this is your skill set or you have fresh ideas to get people through the gate, please get in touch with Dunja

Matchbox Castle

We have pre-cut treasures at the office that need sewing; some are easy and some are a little involved. Come and collect a kit from the school office!



Book Shop



If you have second hand books please drop them as soon as possible at the school office. Kids books, hard covers, paperbacks and puzzles are all appreciated. For heavy donations please contact Gareth 027 705 0275

Star Shop

This very popular children's shop needs 100's of handmade items. If you would like a fun winter project please get in touch with Jo - 0211709495.



clothes shop



We are looking for more clothes donations for the 2nd hand clothes stall at the Spring Fair! If you have any clothes in good condition we gratefully take them. Either drop at the school or kindy office or directly to Marie.

A CHILD CAN USE A PHONE. BUT CAN SHE OR HE TIE A KNOT

by Donovan Gay

What children lose when practical skill, patience and real experience are treated as optional.

By Donovan Gay

As teachers and parents, we all know the skill and confidence with which a child can do things on a phone or iPad. Frankly, it puts most of us to shame. Yet these same children can hesitate or need support to tie a knot, hold a ruler or thread a needle.

For many of us, these were skills we learnt early on. Now they are less necessary. Children have shoes without laces. They copy and paste material on a screen. So much arrives ready-made.

Children are less often exposed to the fine-motor skills that many of us developed when we were young. They may not be asked to cut out a shape accurately, measure something carefully with a ruler or learn to knit or sew.

This is not a case for every child to become "crafty". It is a deeper question about what children are now bypassing because of the changing world they live in. When they are presented with these tasks, many have little confidence and, in some cases, not yet the fine-motor control to complete them.

But something bigger is at stake. Children are also building a relationship with difficulty and with the process of learning a skill. All too often, the task is abandoned because it is too difficult or boring. There is no accomplishment because there has been no time to work through the difficulty.

The obvious concern is fine-motor development, including handwriting. Many teachers are noticing that children now arrive with less confidence and control in these areas than they once did.

But the bigger picture is the process that is being lost alongside the skill itself. When we measure a line incorrectly, cannot tie a knot, drop a stitch while knitting or find that wood does not behave as we expected when carving, we learn something. We first have to identify what we have done incorrectly. Then we adjust our approach and try again.

This process may have to be repeated many times before a skill is mastered. Alongside the practical skill, the child is learning patience, care, sequence, accuracy and practical judgement.

Together, these develop something more. They develop confidence, which is a very important quality in learning. Confidence is not simply the feeling that a child can perform a task. It is also the confidence that, if something is not working, they can acquire the skill with patience.

Children have become accustomed to a modern world where everything is on demand. Entertainment, information, images and products are ready and waiting

at the click of a button. They become comfortable scrolling, watching and consuming.

I am not suggesting that we turn back time to an era without technology. But I do think we need to address this with earnestness. The greatest loss is the loss of experience. Many children are spending more of their lives with screens and engaging less with the material world around them.

They need slower learning and more engagement with the world. They need to develop skills as simple as tying a knot. They need to learn that things can be repaired, not deleted. These experiences may seem small, but they are vital to the healthy development of the human being and to bringing children into a relationship with the world.

This is made worse in many schools, where every child has a tablet. Handwriting, drawing and practical skills can become optional extras in the curriculum. Worksheets, documents and information received through a tablet can begin to take the place of work that asks children to use their hands.

But education is not information.

Education asks the child to go through experiences where they engage and learn from what they do, often repeating the same thing several times until they get it right. It involves much more than information.

We are under the impression that a good education is measured by what a child knows. It is not. It is also about the skills, qualities and information they accumulate and can put to use through action and judgement. It is about what they can preserve in their memory so that this accumulation gives them intentions and possibilities.

Children need their hands in order to learn. They need to be engaged in their will. Learning is not all in the head. It must be practical.

Steiner put this very directly:

"...if we know that someone who moves their fingers in a clumsy way also has a clumsy intellect, has inflexible ideas and thoughts, and those who know how to properly move their fingers also have flexible thoughts and ideas and can enter into the real nature of things, then we will not underestimate the importance of developing external capabilities."

The Renewal of Education [GA 301], 11 May 1920.

This is why Waldorf education includes handwork, form drawing, singing, music, games, festivals and more. These are not part of the curriculum simply to be different from mainstream education or to offer a lovely alternative. They are part of the curriculum because they are core to the education.

For full article visit: <https://waldorfways.substack.com/p/a-child-can-use-a-phone-but-can-they?r=4agnrt>

MRSST UPDATE

Hi everyone,

Kindergarten

We have started working with the teachers and staff at the kindergarten to establish how we can focus on making it the best it can be. Their input will be most valuable in the Board's understanding of how it can support the kindergarten in growing. Being able to connect with the broader community in the right way to boost child numbers is going to be a key priority. We also need ideas from parents; please talk with teachers and Board members you may know - we need to grow!

Woolshed

School and kindergarten representatives have been asked to participate in looking at how we can best utilise the space and what their individual needs might be. We will also have input from the "Wednesday men's group" to discuss use by Steiner members. Ben Crane has put his hand up to help with that. We are also contacting past community members who have been involved that may have useful knowledge.

As an outcome we expect there will be a re-organisation internally, a clean out of unwanted items and some rehabilitation to provide individual areas that are needed as a work activity space. Also improving security and a sensible management process to cover WHS requirements.

If anyone has a long-lost personal item they think is there, please let me know by email to chair@mrsst.nz within the next 2 weeks or it may go.

Acknowledgements

Organised by Mauricio and Richard Bier, the upgrade to the entry, roundabout, kindergarten carpark and school access road during the school holidays has had many positive comments. Thanks to Chambers and Jackett who have been involved with the school since the early days in Wallace St.

Best to you all

Lindsay Alexander

Chair MRSST



**Motueka Steiner
Kindergarten**

Kindergarten has a special session which runs once per week, Thursdays 9am-12pm, called Kākano (seed). This is our transitional group designed especially for children whose families intend for them to eventually join one of our standard classes, which run 3-4 days per week.

Kākano provides a gentle, developmentally appropriate bridge between home life and kindergarten. It supports children and their whānau, as they become familiar with the rhythms, relationships, environment and the special character of the kindergarten. Parents join the session, offering children emotional security while gradually encouraging increasing independence and confidence. With the option to try leaving the child for periods, when the time is right.

We are very pleased to welcome Erika Vink as the new teacher facilitating Kākano. Erika previously worked in the school as a class teacher, and has been working with the kindergarten for some time as a reliever. Erika knows the philosophy, community and children well, and we know she will be a wonderful first point of contact for our new kindergarten families. Welcome Erika!

If you or someone you know are interested in learning more about the Kākano group, please get in touch - office@miskindergarten.nz or 03 528 6453.



COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Halleluiah Prayer

"As many of you know, on the 16th of July a dear ex-colleague, from the Steiner School in Christchurch, Neil Carter - member of the anthroposophical society and much more— passed over the threshold; his illness process moved rapidly downhill after being diagnosed with liver cancer.

I visited him in hospital 2 days before his death and also moved the gestures of the "Halleluiah" for him.

I had then sent out emails on the same day to those people who knew Neil, with the request to speak a prayer by R. Steiner which I had chosen and also to do the "Halleluiah" together at 8 pm on the evening of that day.

More than 50 people joined, and I realized that after receiving much positive feedback, how powerful it can be when people focus on the same event at the same time, beyond the boundaries of space.

People were able to feel the power of this togetherness, through prayer and Eurythmy and sharing afterwards if they were more than one person in one space.

I do believe that our thoughts have an impact and even more so if we share the same focus. There are many projects in the world doing exactly this, for example, Global Consciousness Project, Global Coherence Initiative...

And indeed, there appears to be a wish to form such a community here in NZ that can step into "subtle action" and can help building a coherent etheric sheath of protection for someone who experiences illness or crisis or is approaching the threshold in some form.

In practical terms, one of us can suggest someone who is unwell, of course this would need to be in agreement with the affected person, also regarding what is shared to honor privacy - and then the call can be sent out to all who are part of this group.

The suggested time: 8 pm.

The physical space: our own individual homes.

For at least 3 consecutive evenings (depending on the situation)

It is an offering for all members of the anthroposophical society, to join. Of course, others outside of the anthroposophical group can be invited in when they are affected in some way.

The frequency, the form and content can be changing over time or every time we do this.

Anyone who is suggesting a person in need can also suggest an appropriate prayer or a verse or a reading for someone they know if they wish to. However, I would suggest to always do the "Halleluiah" as well.

Currently, I am gathering email addresses and feedback.

I am looking forward to hearing from you and please feel free to add suggestions and ideas!

Blessings on this journey towards togetherness!

*"My soul follow the light of the sun
My soul is a light being
Following the sun she finds as light
the light"*

Looking forward to hearing your response!

Thank you!! Simone Hamblett/Eurythmy Teacher

simoneha@tutanota.com

Roommate wanted

We are looking for a housemate for 2 months for our beautiful, big and light earth house in the Riverside Community. We will be away from the beginning of September until the end of October. There are two bedrooms and a sunroom available, together with a big living room, an open kitchen, bathrooms, pantry, deck and garden.

You would have the opportunity to live in one of the oldest intentional communities in New Zealand, where the Riverside Community Centre, the Kōmitimiti Café, the food club and a bunch of very nice and friendly neighbours amongst cow herds, sheep and chickens have their home.

If you are interested and want to know more about the details, please get in touch: Jenny 028 4707639



bread making – storytelling
natural handmade toys
free play in the kindy garden

Motueka Steiner Playgroup

Fridays 9am–12pm

Contact us
to book your place



**Motueka
NZRDA**

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: TREASURER AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Be part of something truly rewarding!
This is your chance to make a difference – use your
experience to help guide and inspire others.

Consider joining the committee to help shape the future.
Build connections, share skills and make a difference to
your community!

Meetings once a month at
230 College Street, Motueka
info@motuekardnz

Social Eurythmy Workshop at Kina Bay

Moving with awareness
is Development with Joy

Eurythmy was founded in 1912 by R. Steiner when he responded to a question whether there could be a movement art form from the West which is based on the principle of life.

Eu-rythmy means the "harmonious flow/rhythm" like the natural rejuvenating flow in nature and water.

It is based on attentive, mindful movement flow, creating a connection between body, soul and spirit. The heart is always the centre of our felt movements. It is the place where we say "I".

This workshop is focusing on the social aspect when we move together in space; It is about exploring and experiencing movement in a socially conscious way, developing awareness for the space in between us and how we "greet" this space.

Moving together with awareness in this way can touch us profoundly in confirming our true humanness.

"Social Eurythmy" is for everyone, with or without prior experience of Eurythmy!

Workshop at:
108 Kina Beach Road

When: Sunday morning 23rd of August

Time: 10 am - 1 pm

Cost: 50 \$ or sliding scale

To bring: Water bottle, some snacks (there will be short breaks in between!)

CONTACT:

Simone Hamblett (Bachelor of Arts Eurythmy, Dipl. Eurythmy Therapy, NZ Reg. Teacher. Dipl in Te Reo Maori

phone: 021820182 or enrol via email: simoneha@tutanota.com

MITES OF PASSAGE FOUNDATION

CHILDREN & PARENTS

4 upcoming events for you and your child.

These weekend programmes are an opportunity to celebrate your relationship free from devices, with other parents and children in nature.

Registrations for 2026 & 2027 are open now

Rising Families - For fathers & their daughters (ages 9-11)

October 2nd - 4th 2026

Rising Families - For mothers & their sons (ages 8-10)

October 9th - 11th 2026

Rising Tides - For mothers & their daughters (ages 9-11)

Oct. 30th - Nov. 1st 2026 & March 12th - 14th 2027

Rising Sons - For fathers & their sons (ages 8-10)

November 13th - 15th 2026

Held by experienced facilitators in Mōhua, Golden Bay, Aotearoa, New Zealand.



LEARN MORE
<https://ropf.org.nz/>



TINY CABIN FOR LONG TERM RENT

Are you in need of a spare bedroom or creative space parked alongside your house or in the garden? If so, get in touch. This little beauty would ideally like to be parked up in a safe and secure place on someone's property around the Motueka area.

It has a queen sized bed, large storage space in the front, benches, shelving, drawers and a clothes hanging rack inside it. Beautiful woodwork inside with windows, double opening doors, ample lighting and a solar panel with a good sized battery to run the lights and 3 USB plugs. It can also be plugged into mains power to run computers and other small devices. It's primarily more of a bedroom than a living or cooking space as it doesn't have a built in kitchen or bathroom facilities.

For more information call or text Kahu Geor +61 435110964 or email flyingfreakahu@gmail.com



Winter Hootenanny!

Ceilidh Fundraiser for Rites of Passage Foundation

SAT, 22ND AUG, 7-11PM
PŌHARA HALL, GOLDEN BAY

A heart-warming, foot-stompin' barn dance featuring live music from the Footloose Ceilidh Band and a variety of Celtic dances for any age and ability. No experience or partner required. Tickets are essential and usually sell out—so grab yours now! Click the link:
<https://humanitix.com/rites-of-passage-hootenanny/tickets>



All proceeds benefit the Rites of Passage Foundation -supporting youth, individuals and families through community-led initiations. Your support makes a lasting difference.



What does peace mean to you?

Entries due Friday 4th September

www.tasman.govt.nz/mayors-for-peace-art-competition