



Kia Manawanui

Te Rāwhiti & Te Rā Pānui 1 May 2020

Te Rā Waldorf School, Te Rawhiti Kindergarten, Nursery and Playgroups
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Tēnā koutou e ngā whānau,
dear parents, families, and friends.

It has now been over a month since kindergarten and school have been open for play and for learning for all our students. The grass looks lush due to the autumn growth and the absence of footsteps! The paths are swept and the rooms are clean.

Rudolf Steiner talked about the human energy body, which he called the etheric body (it has many names in different cultures). When we sleep, the parts of the human organism that give feeling, sensation and awareness are not attached to the body. The etheric body, however, keeps going about its work. These are all the processes that keep us alive and well.

At the moment, we feel thankful that the etheric life of the school and kindergarten has been so well cared for during the time of the rāhui - there are many tasks that still need to be done even when the tamariki are not here. This of course also relates to the financial life of our organization as well as the care of property and the maintenance of organizational structures.

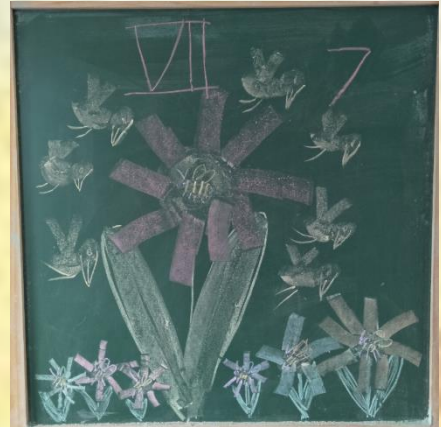
Thank you to the many people who have kept these processes flowing! Your work is very much appreciated. We very much hope that we will soon see the school awake with the life of your children, our students.

Ngā mihi mahana nā

David Nicoll & Kerstin Wagner

From André – Class 1 (a poem!)

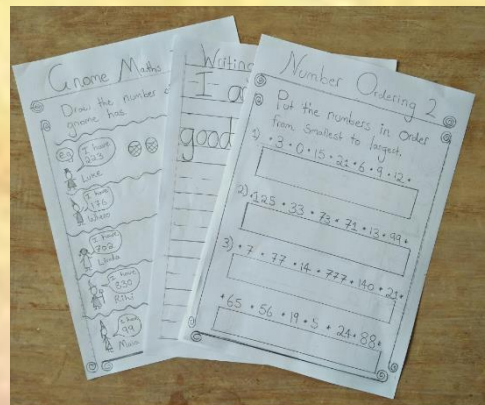
Class One have had lots of fun,
bike rides, gardening, enjoying the sun
Tree climbing, stories and going for walks
Appreciating the silence
And missing friends for play and talks
Waiting...waiting...waiting for the bubbles
to grow
So for now they'll practice letters,
numbers, form drawing
And go with the flow!



An introduction from Buck – our new Class 2 teacher

Tēnā koutou. I completed my teaching training at Victoria University last year and have experience both as a teacher aide and an English teacher for two years while overseas. This is my first time teaching at a Waldorf school, and I am very lucky to have an excellent and welcoming team supporting me here at Te Rā.

So Class 2 are going through a big change with a new teacher joining them this term. Over the last two weeks, we have been contributing to the bubble living project and begun a new activity packet to practice and perfect the maths and literacy we learned in Term 1. Next week our tamariki will receive a new art package to work on at their leisure.



From Aleka - Class 3

There have been many wonderful home activities taking place, alongside some time spent doing school work. One family was inspired by our overnight Tipi sleepover at Ōtaki Forks last term, and built their own tipi in the garden using only natural materials!

From Kerstin & Sharon – Class 4

While many children have been super busy with the home-learning packs, we are really happy to hear how many children have had the opportunity to explore all sorts of things – cooking, craft, building projects, story writing, horse riding ... and lots of time to play. A couple of students are learning a new language (!), Henry's bubble built a beach buggy, and Gabriella scripted a play that was performed as a 'shadow play' (with beautifully cut characters) by her bubble members. At the same time, we know that for several of our Class 4 families this is a stressful time with two parents working – we want to also acknowledge your hard work, which is much less visible but just as precious!



From David & Thereza – Class 5

Class 5 students have been busy with an amazing variety of activities during the Rāhui. This has included baking, creating board games, making music and rebuilding bicycles! Over the next few weeks, the class have a home based main lesson project on birds. They will observe birds in their local environment and make graphs to report on their observations. They will also draw their bird and write some sentences to describe their bird in te reo Māori.

From Todd – Class 6

Class Six have been engaged in the Mia Casa Retreat (My Home Retreat) Main Lesson, which has focused on a multitude of learning experiences related to our homes. Being one of the senior classes we've been meeting on a video conference platform called Zoom, which has been a fantastic way to share our work daily. I have included one photo of Lucy's boardgame she made, which is related to our Pacific Worlds Main Lesson we were working on before the term break. Well done Lucy for your effort and creativity.



From Paul - Class 7

Class 7 has begun it's first week in the Level 3 Bubble with a variety of daily activities. We are exploring 'show NOT tell' writing. This is the practice of describing something was or is fun, rather than simply telling the reader. We are doing daily spelling practice as well as a range of maths activities. Every day we get a new math question, a math game, and some revision questions to answer. Some of us are doing the Guide to Bubble-Living projects or choosing from a collection of other interesting ideas. This beautiful mandala was create by a Class 7 student.



Bubble Poets and Poetry wanted ... by the Kāpiti Library

During their time at home, some children have proven to be quite skillful at poetry – whether with rhyme or alliteration! If they would enjoy writing a Bubble-Poem, we would love to see it (perhaps publish it in the next newsletter), and they could even win a prize from the local library (closes 17 May):

<https://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/libraries/my-library/news-and-events/poetry-competition/>

From the Board of Trustees

The Board would like to welcome Simon MacKay and Gordon MacKenzie as new members to the team. We are especially pleased to have them as things get busier in our property space (Gordon will be taking on this portfolio) and our leadership inquiry (Simon has joined the working group for this). Thank you both for agreeing to come on board in such strange times. We have included bios below.

We also wish to extend a huge thanks to our teaching faculty as well as to those families who we know have gone out of their way to keep their children at home despite the challenge that this may be – thank you! School and kindergarten are indeed operating under difficult circumstances. Our "at school bubbles" have the highest proportion of students on-site in the Kapiti area and our teaching

staff have worked really hard to provide supervision for those on-site while also continuing to deliver learning and support for those at home. Thank you to everyone on staff for stepping up and working within some quite tricky Ministry guidelines.

We hope this finds everyone in alert level 3 well and we remain hopeful that things will be back to a 'new normal' relatively soon.

Shelley Wrigley

Chairperson

Te Rā Board of Trustees

Gordon MacKenzie

King Island, placed within the Western entrance of Bass Strait is my turangawaewae where my whānau have farmed for a number of generations. I return there as often as I can with my children where we love the freedom, isolated wild lifestyle and the vast array of flora and fauna, along with seeing our extensive relatives.

Mum was a single parent who raised myself and sister on our family farm while also undertaking the role of district nurse. Some of my most vivid memories of my childhood are of driving cattle in all sorts of weather on horseback and Mum patching up the neighbours after various accidents in our small kitchen.

At sixteen I ran away from home, more for the desire of adventure. I ended up living with my father in Western Australia where I became an apprentice monumental mason.

After my trade certificate I departed for the United Kingdom with my passports in hand and ill equipped for anything else. Life in the UK was a revelation for me where I met and talked with an array of people from all walks of life (in addition to traveling throughout Europe and North Africa) when working in historical building restoration with English masons who put my Australian stone skills to shame. It was meeting this array of people who opened my eyes to the understanding that the possibilities in life are endless.

I came to New Zealand in 2001 with Joanna. We had met on a strawberry farm in Berkshire, where she promised that NZ was just



like Switzerland. After landing in Hamilton and debunking this far fetched myth, I concluded that there wasn't much opportunity for masons in this land and decided to attend university.

I emerged at the other end of that experience with 1st class honors in Political Science and History, and went on to join the Ministry of Health, followed by Oranga Tamariki (known as CYF back then), Ministry of Social Development and now with the Ministry of Justice. Primarily my roles have been in funding and contracting, service design and system design.

Joanna and I live in Waikanae with our three children who attend Te Rā. I'm looking forward to contributing to the school and helping the team in any way possible.

Noho ora mai

Gordon McKenzie

Simon MacKay

I am a parent at Te Rā Waldorf School and a BOT member. My education began growing up on a remote cattle station and attending school via two way radio in Central QLD. My school projects worked with the head (thinking) heart (feeling) and hands (willing), projects were made by hand with the materials I had on the remote, bush, outback property, old tin cans, eucalyptus trees and hand made engines. My father, grandfather and great grandfather were engineers. My great grandfather was the Dean of Engineering and set up the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Tasmania now UTAS.

Living on a station my school projects were quite large, designing and building a steel racing car, making a steel ship like Noah's Arch, making gas, electricity and building generators to sustain life. From a young age I learnt knitting, weaving, candle making, shearing, carding and spinning wool by hand using a pedal spinning wheel. The station we lived on had no electricity and as such, I lived off grid for the first 16 years of my life. If we needed electricity or gas or resources we had to make it by hand. Growing up involved cooking on an old wood stove in 43 degree heat, preparing meals, animal husbandry which included mustering cattle on horseback, motorbike and small planes. I became at one with nature living mindfully around our wildlife neighbors who were venomous snakes, spiders and ant hills waist high.

I moved to Melbourne and studied to become an Engineer where I met my wife Ellen Mackay who introduced me to Steiner Education. Ellen studied Steiner Teacher Training at The Melbourne Rudolf Steiner Seminar and Grail Quest at Tarremah Steiner School Tasmania, we have three children, Karaitiana (30) Alain (18) and Milena (11). Milena is in Class 6, Todd's Class at Te Rā Waldorf School, Milena loves violin, writing and performing arts. Karaitiana is a professional vocalist at the Hedberg Conservatorium of Music UTAS and Alain plays flute, piano and is studying to become an Engineer.



Our family has grown up on a rural mini biodynamic farm in Central Tasmania inspired by the philosophy of Dr Rudolf Steiner. We have attended seminars, lectures, and workshops on anthroposophy and in 2019 I enrolled into Grail Quest a foundation course on Anthroposophy. In this course, I made hand dipped bees waxed candles, wet felted advent calendars, veil painting, clay work, singing, speech, performing arts, biodynamics, sacred geometry and attended weekly lectures on the "Life of Rudolf Steiner", who Steiner was and mostly what Steiner Education brings to the children at each phase throughout their development. This foundation course has changed the way I do business today. My business world is technology focused implementing complex systems into business from Legal due diligence, to administration systems. My business background is diverse; Director Legal for LexisNexis, Education, Help when you need it, working with Michael Carr Gregg, MYOB, Sports media to online advertising and marketing. In my spare time, I like to build with my hands for my family, future grandchildren and the community around us.

We moved to New Zealand in 2019 when I was offered a position as CIO at NZRB in Wellington.

We live close to Te Rā Waldorf School in Paraparaumu Beach and are blessed each day on how lucky we are to be living in this incredible country with a view of Kapiti Island.

Thank you for welcoming my family and I into the school community, never before have we experienced such love and

fraternity in a school community such as Te Ra Waldorf School. We are blessed that Te Rā offers Te Reo Māori as it is important culturally and spiritually for the first people of Aotearoa New Zealand and for our son Karaitiana who is Māori. I am looking forward to offering my skills and learning new skills from each and everyone of you along the way.

Arohanui
Simon D. Mackay MSE

From the Office

If you have a child in a bubble at school, and you need to get a message to the teachers of the bubble, please text the school on 021 295 8618 and send a quick email to principal@tera.school.nz

From the Finance Team

The beginning of the month is a good time to check your available Kindo balances and to apply your balances across to anything that is available to be paid.

To do this please log into [Kindo](#) and apply available balances across to your list of Fees and Donations.

We will send this reminder at the beginning of each month as we know life is particularly busy (especially at the moment) and it is easy to forget.

We hope you are all well in your bubble. If you have any questions about costs loaded onto Kindo, please feel free to email [Tonia](#) or [Rhonda](#).

Diary of Dates

Tues 28 April

First day of Level 3

Mon 11 May

Government review & Alert Level decision

ALL OF THE FOLLOWING DATES ARE TENTATIVE ONLY:

Mon 18 May

Raphael House Upper School Information Evening at Te Rā School, 7:00pm-8:00pm
Traditional Māori Games - Otaki (Year 5/6)
PP Date Traditional Māori Games

Tues 26 May

Thurs 28 May

Mon 1 June

Queen's Birthday Holiday

Tues 2 June

Teacher Development Day

Wed 10 June
 4-8)
 Thurs 11 June
 Sat 20 June
 Thurs 25 June
 Tues 30 June
 Thurs 2 July
 Fri 3 July

(No school/kindy/nursery/playgroup)
 Interschool Cross Country – Waikanae Park (Years
PP Date - Interschool Cross Country
Working Bee 9:00am-4:00pm
 St John Lantern Festival School
 (5:30-7:00pm)
 Regional Cross Country (for those qualified),
 Upper Hutt
PP Date - Regional Cross Country
Last Day Term 2

***** SCHOOL HOLIDAYS *****

Mon 20 July
 Sunday 5 July
 Mon 27 July
 Wed 12 August
 Fri 14 August
 Mon 24 August
 Sat 29 August
 Wed 16 September
 Fri 18 September
 Fri 25 Sept
Fri 25 Sept

First Day Term 3
 Matariki Celebration at School, 6am
 Class 2 Whānau Hui, 7:00-9:00pm
 Junior Winter Tournament (Yr 5/6)
PP Date Junior Winter Tournament
 Teacher Development Day
 (No school/kindy/nursery/playgroup)
Working Bee 9:00am-4:00pm
 Senior Winter Tournament
PP Date Senior Winter Tournament
 Games Day for School
Last Day Term 3

***** SCHOOL HOLIDAYS *****

Mon 12 October
 Wed 14 October
 Sat 17 October
 Tues 20 October
 Tues 20 October
 Thurs 22 October
 Mon 26 October
 Fri 30 October
 Saturday 31 October
 Mon-Fri 16-20 Nov
 Fri 20 November
 Mon 23 November
 Sat 28 November
 Fri 4 December
Tues 15 December
Wed 16 December

First Day Term 4
 School & Kindergarten Photo Day
 Working Bee 9:00am-4:00pm
 Class 2 Whānau Hui 5:00-7:00pm
 Interschool Mountain Biking (Yr 5-8)
 PP Date Interschool Mountain Biking
 Labour Day Holiday
 Early 1pm Finish
 (School & Kindergartens)
 Open Day 11:00am-2:00pm
 Class 5 Olympic Camp - Ngaruawahia
 Kapa Haka Fundraiser Evening
 Teacher Development Day
 (No school/kindy/nursery/playgroup)
 Advent Wreath Making – School Hall
 Kāpiti Kapa Haka Festival
Last Day for Kindergarten for 2020
Last Day for School (early Finish)