



MICHAEL PARK
A RUDOLF STEINER SCHOOL

Kia Ora, and welcome to the Spring Kindergarten Newsletter,

The kindergartens newly planted trees are starting to bud and daffodils are lifting their heads to greet the new Season.

***A little brown bulb went to sleep in the ground
In his little brown nightie he slept very sound
Old winter he roared and he raged overhead
But the little brown bulb did not move in his bed
Till spring came tiptoeing over the lea
With fingers to lips as soft as can be
Then the little brown bulb, just lifted his head
Slipped off his nightie and jumped out of bed!***

(A spring verse and much loved hiding and jumping up game)

We are pleased to give you an update on enrolments and news from the kindergarten.

Merging of the Kindergarten Licenses

The kindergartens have had a visit from the Ministry of Education licensing team this week who merged our two licensed centres into one Michael Park Kindergarten. Not only will this reduce the amount of day to day administration required, we will finally be able to remove the fences down the middle of the playground and move on with our plans to develop the outdoor environment.

Vegetable Garden Plans

Lyndle our school gardener has drafted a vegetable garden plan. We plan to turn the shed around and move it further down the fence line. The area between the shed and the Oak tree will have worm farms and a compost area. The vegetable gardens will be 2 tiers and extend along the fence line and around the bottom of the Totara tree. In between each row Lyndle has suggested that we bark and plant with things that are fragrant to walk on e.g. thyme, oregano, chamomile... This means we will be able to divide it up into discreet beds to make it easy to manage and allow us to have planting that reflects the season, brings colour into the garden and provide abundant vegetables to cook with.

I think they are beautiful and a wonderful step toward creating a harmonious outdoor play area for children. Our next step will be to fundraise and plan out the rest of the garden. As well as creating places to swing, climb and scramble, we also need spaces that invite quiet play, building, arranging, and creating. If you have any ideas you would like to share email karena@michaelpark.school.nz

Curriculum in the Kindergartens

The kindergarten teachers have been studying mood of the fifth in the kindergarten section meetings. We hope to continue working on the school wide music curriculum with Megan Baguley (music teacher) and Neil Boland (AUT lecturer) throughout this year. Alongside this the kindergarten teachers are deepening their understanding of children's play and sharing ways to bring about healthy play in the kindergartens

Staffing Changes in the Kindergarten

Ingrid Wendel is currently relieving in Magnolia kindergarten. A ski-ing accident means that Nadine Seidel will be away until at least mid-September. We have 3 new staff who have joined us recently; Sophie Lankovsky, Susannah Mckenzie and Alice Neuman. Sophie trained as a social worker and has worked in a number of different carer roles including as a kindergarten assistant in the Havelock North Rudolf Steiner kindergartens. She is a potter and loves the outdoors. Sophie is working in Jacaranda Kindergarten. Alice has a background in fine arts and loves cooking. She has had a connection with Rudolf Steiner education since childhood and is working in Magnolia Kindergarten. Susannah Mckenzie who also has a fine arts background is working with the older children and also wherever else we need her. She has been a class teacher for three years in the Titirangi Rudolf Steiner School.

Improving Communication

It appears that as well as being very expensive to send out the paper newsletters they are not always arriving at the right address or with insufficient notice for upcoming events.

We have now set up an enrolment queries email address to improve the communication with families wishing to enrol in Michael Park kindergarten and school.

enrolments@michaelpark.school.nz

Please email us so we are able to add your current email to our database.

This way we can send you information about upcoming parent education, community and social events and what's happening in the kindergarten. We hope this will also mean we can be more easily responsive to queries and make sure they are being answered by the right person.

If you have changed any contact details, want your application removed from our lists or want to update us with more information about your child or family drop us a line at enrolments@michaelpark.school.nz

Enrolment Update

We are beginning the interviews for the 2008 birth year children this term and next.

We are in a position of some birth years having more children applying than places available and we are keenly aware of how difficult this is for parents. Even if you are not contacted for an interview you are welcome to stay on our waiting list and we will contact you if a place becomes available.

The only criteria for entry to Michael Park is that parents choosing this education are able to demonstrate a specific connection to the special character of this school as a Rudolf Steiner School. To this end we ask our parents and potential parents to make an active exploration of Rudolf Steiner education so you are making an informed choice for your child and can demonstrate partnership in your child's education. We encourage parents to be part of the parent education opportunities we offer including Open Afternoon, playgroup, doll and craft group, seminars and the wonderful Spiritual task of the Mother group. We do keep a record of attendance at these events.

Biography Enrolment Interviews

If you are phoned for a biography interview we will invite your family to come and meet with us in the kindergarten. Biography interviews are family interviews with a kindergarten teacher where you can tell the story of your child prior to starting kindergarten. This helps us to understand who your child is as an individual and also the wider context of your family and community. We also ask about your connection and developing relationship to Rudolf Steiner education. It is important to us that you understand about the education and are willing to support the philosophy in your parenting and home life. Siblings are welcome to come with you and play in the kindergarten while we are talking, likewise if your child is part of an extended family feel free to invite others who are important in your child's world. During the biography interview we talk about your transition to kindergarten, any specific needs they have, how they like to be settled or comforted, their development and health, your family, culture, beliefs and aspirations.

Becoming Involved

We have several wonderful tireless and hard working parent groups in the school and kindergarten who need some more help. If you are looking for a way to become more involved with the community or could spare a few hours to help these groups leading up to the fair we would be delighted to hear from you.

Craft Groups, Doll Group, Woodwork Group

Over the years we have had many dedicated crafters, knitters, sewers and nimble-fingered people make dolls and craft for the Fair. It is one of the things that our Fair is renowned for, and the craft in class 3 is always sold out before lunch! Last year the work of the doll and craft group generated more than \$5,000. After many years of making craft and dolls, and helping and teaching new parents, some of these lovely and hardworking people are stepping down from doll and craft group. Thank you to you all.

We now need new parents to step in with enthusiasm to be involved with the group. There are lots of ways to be involved, and skill level is not a barrier. You can come on Friday mornings to doll and craft group in Totara house, and this is also a way to share and learn new skills. You may choose to use the take-home packs to do at home yourself, or you can 'gift' the packs to nanas and aunties to do! We also have taken home patterns and templates of specific things to make, especially for competent knitters, and more evening and weekday groups are being planned.

Craft for the Craft Stall: *Phone Emma Green on 571 3350*

Craft for Children's Bazaar: *Phone Kate Le Pelley on 521 5677*

Doll and Craft Group: *Phone Cara Elliot on 528 1978*

Wood Work Group: *Phone David Le Pelley on 521 5677 or 021 889 503*

Meets every Tuesday night from 7.30pm to 9.30pm

Makes lovely wooden things for the School Fair. They would really like to have more interested people to help out.

Doll Group

We meet to make dolls (all sorts) and other toys for the Michael Park School Fair and for our families. We share our experiences and knowledge with each other and have morning tea and lunch. Children are welcome.

When: Friday 9am to 2pm (Stay as long or as little as you need.)

Where: Totara House, next to Magnolia Kindergarten

What to Bring: Needles, white thread, scissors, pins and a sense of humour, something for morning tea

Craft Group Revival

Dear Parent Community, craft group is making a comeback (well, I suppose it never really went away...) Join us for crafting; making beautiful things for our summer fair –bring your sewing kit (heck, join us even if you only have a willing spirit!) There's tea and possibly a midgin of baking.

Monday Evenings

1/118 Marua Rd, Ellerslie (7.00 - 9.30)

Thursday Mornings

1/118 Marua Rd, Ellerslie 9.00 onwards

Friday Mornings

Totara House (by the kindergartens) 9.00 onwards

For more information call Emma Green 5713350 or email

solandemma@xtra.co.nz

The Spiritual Task of the Mother

The challenge of home-making today can bring stresses, problems and questions. Join us in exploring the spiritual basis of the mother's role. Our group holds monthly workshops on the last Saturday of every month. Morning Tea is provided.

This month's topic is: **Vaccinations- making an informed choice**

With guest speaker: **Dr Ulrich Doering** MBChB DipLO&G FRNZCGP and Anthroposophical Medicine

On: Saturday 24th September from 9.15am to 12.30pm

At: Rudolf Steiner House, 104 Michaels Ave, Ellerslie

Registration Fee:

\$20 (Inclusive of craft materials)

This may be negotiated if this fee is difficult for you to attain.

For further information contact Trisha Glover on 570 9720.

Next Date: 29 October – topic to be confirmed

Anthro What?

Can't even say the word? Got lots of questions that you'd like to ask about anthroposophy but feel a bit unsure? Join us for an informal evening over coffee or tea; bring your questions, whatever they may be, to help you begin to understand anthroposophy.

Soul Exercises to Prepare for Meditation

Where: Helios, 18 Barrhead Place, Avondale **When:** Tuesday 4 October

Time: 7.00pm to 8.30pm

Where: Michael Park School **When:** November date to be advised

Time: 7.00pm to 8.30pm

Noel and I look forward to a warm open evening where we hope to be able to create a non-judgemental space for you to come and join in open discussion and questions with us.

Your hosts: Trisha Glover (Parent of the school) and Noel Josephson (Former parent of the school)

Anthroposophy – the foundation from which Rudolf Steiner developed the impulse for this school and others like it, as well as many other initiatives in the world, for example Biodynamic farming and gardening,

Snapdragon

Snap Dragon is our little school shop located in the red brick house to the right of the school drive way. Snapdragon is open three times per week. Friday 8.30am to 9.30am and Wednesday and Friday 1.30 to 2.30/3.00pm It has all sorts of handmade and wonderful toys, gifts for children's birthdays and craft. Come and have a look.

Finding Out About Upcoming Events

The Michael Park community newsletter comes out monthly. To access the Spiral from our website www.michaelpark.school.nz go to the right hand side of the home page and click latest news. Here are some events you may want to consider coming to. Please check the website to confirm the times and dates

Saturday 5 Nov - **Michael Park School Fair** – bring the grandparents

Tuesday 27th Wednesday 28th September - **Class 12 Independent Projects**

Wednesday 30th Nov – Friday 2nd Dec - **Class 8 Play**

Monday 5th Dec – Tuesday 6th Dec - **Class 8 Independent Projects**

Tuesday 14th Dec - **Nativity Play Dress Rehearsal** – suitable for children to attend



MICHAEL PARK SCHOOL

"The Spirit of Education that contains the Future within It"
(Dr. R. Steiner)