

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK



*For flowers that bloom about our feet,
For tender grass so fresh and sweet,
For song of bird and hum of bee,
For all things fair we hear and see,
Father in heaven, we thank thee.*

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Kia ora e te whānau

What a wonderful Spring Fair we had this past Sunday! The weather was just right for such a day and the campus looked beautiful with all the greenery and flowers. I saw many happy children, and adults too, having fun and eating delicious food. A huge thank you to the Proprietor's Trust, and especially to David Gaston and the steering group who made it all happen. We are very grateful to all our volunteers who freely spent hours of their time organizing the Fair and working on the day. It provided us with a streamlined event that brought our community together in such a joyous way and enabled many connections and meaningful conversations.

We have four weeks to go until the end of term, and the beginning of the long-awaited summer holidays. We will be very busy bringing the term and the year to an end: Ahi have several exciting class trips ahead of them, as well as practising their final speeches, and concluding with their farewell dinner. Class 1 will perform their nativity play and will have a class outing to Tahunanui beach. We will celebrate Advent as usual with the students from classes 1 – 7 by walking the Advent spiral and placing little clay hearts in a basket at the centre of the spiral. These clay hearts will find their way to our school Christmas tree. On the last day of term, we will have our sharing assembly in Lower Moutere Hall at 12:00, again only for classes 1 – 7, after which the students will receive their reports. Please take them home from the hall – we will not be returning to school after that.

*Ko te kupu whakahāwea meinga
heī wero ki te hinengaro.*

Ngā mihi

Elizabeth



Term 4 2024 and Term 1 2025

Click [here](#) to view full calendar online

Friday 13 December
Monday 3 February 2025
Tuesday 4 February 2025
Thursday 6 February
Friday 11 April

End of Year Assembly and Graduation
Nelson Anniversary
First Day of School 2025
Waitangi Day
Teacher Only Day

No School

No School
No School

CLASSROOM CORNER

CLASS 1

Class 1 has had a wonderful Term 4 so far.

In literacy, they've been practising writing some of the verses we've learned in our morning circle, as well as creating their own little readers to strengthen their sight words and sound families. In maths, the students have been working on their ladders of 2, 3, 5 and 10, alongside reinforcing the four basic operations. They've also enjoyed exploring a variety of fun maths activities like bingo and dot to dot, to mention a few.

The children also took part in their first full sports day this past week, and they eagerly joined in all the races and activities. One new addition, the sack race, was a particular favourite and proved to be a big hit with everyone.



Lastly, we have begun our exciting Christmas adventures, including creating an advent calendar for one of our classmates. The children are also busy working on festive activities, such as creating decorations for

our class Christmas tree and designing 2025 calendars using their artwork, which they will then gift to someone special.

Wishing you all a wonderful few weeks run up to Christmas.

Blessings

Miss Terry and Class 1



FARM TO TABLE



Spring has arrived and the garden is bursting with life. It is especially challenging to keep the weeds in check. Every class has done a great job weeding, and we have used the weeds as a tool to learn - categorizing weeds into groups, and examining seeds, roots, stems, and leaves as part of plants. With all our weeding efforts, we built weed towers and filled the compost to the brim. Our goal for the new year is to create some raised garden beds.

Our spring crops have also been planted, including eggplants, tomatoes, peppers, and capsicums, which were generously donated by Rati. Additionally, we planted basil, onions, sunflowers, chia seeds, and some beautiful lavender plants for Davina. Since pukeko pulled out many of these plants, we have been frantically applying mulch to protect them.

Class 2/3 have been very busy in the garden, during class with Blessing and gardening time. They planted two huge potato beds (sadly, one was destroyed by pukekos). They have also grown sunflowers, beans, corn, and peas from seed and created a stunning scarlet runner bean frame.

Jolie



SCHOOL NOTICES

END OF YEAR ASSEMBLY

Friday 13 December 12:00 pm—1:00 pm

Lower Moutere Hall

C1-7 Students will go home with their parents from the Lower Moutere Hall after assembly.

Kohatu students will finish at 1:15pm.

(Children taking the bus will walk back to school with the teachers and be supervised until the bus arrives.)

You will soon receive a consent form to give permission for your child to walk from school to the hall.

TERM 4 COMMUNITY SURVEY

This term's community survey is on Effective Teaching.

<https://forms.gle/Bu6ccEEx2XWhUxdm7>

Your feedback is much appreciated .

SPRING FAIR 2024

- The Steering Group will be debriefing next week and will send an update to the community in the next newsletter.
- Spring Fair Lost and Found property can be found at the office.
- Please return your costumes to the office by next week Friday.
- 4 kindergarten locks and 2 school locks have gone missing. If you know of their whereabouts please notify the office.
- Delicious cauliflower pickles that were donated to the Deli are now for sale in the office.
- Left over plants from the Plant Stall will be offered for Koha. Please contact the office for more information.

KINDERGARTEN

Dear Parents,

We warmly invite you to a warm evening of connection and learning as we gather on Monday, December 2, at 6:30 pm at the kindergarten for a parent education evening. This is a time just for you—an opportunity to relax, reflect, and nurture your own journey as a parent in our community.

We are delighted to welcome experienced Steiner teacher, Warwick Sandler, who will guide us in exploring how to slow down with children and celebrate the holiday season with intention and meaning. In the midst of this busy time, Warwick's insights will inspire us to create a season filled with joy, connection and reverence.

This evening is for adults only—come without the children, take a breath, and enjoy the camaraderie of fellow parents and teachers. Entry is by koha (to thank Warwick for his time).

We look forward to sharing this special time with you.



THREE YOUNG WOMEN FLEE AFGHANISTAN FOR AN EDUCATION AT BERKSHIRE WALDORF HIGH SCHOOL

from the Berkshire Edge

"I think a lot of times, people read these stories on the news and feel helpless," said Berkshire Waldorf Admissions Director Samantha Stier. "Here is a situation where the school was able to work with organizations, host families, and donors to make a difference for these three young women."

by Shaw Israel Izikson



These three young women left Afghanistan in order to get an education at the Berkshire Waldorf High School in Stockbridge. Photo courtesy of Samantha Stier.

In Afghanistan, the Taliban, the country's ruling power,

bans women from pursuing secondary and higher education. According to a report issued in August by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Taliban, which took control of Afghanistan in 2021, has prevented over 1.4 million girls from receiving an education.

In August, the Taliban enacted "The Law on the Promotion of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice." According to the United Nations, the law includes a list of repressive provisions on women, including a ban on women's voices being heard in public, a mandate that women must wear clothing covering their entire bodies, a ban on women speaking outside of their homes, and restrictions on women traveling without a male relative.

In defiance of the Taliban regime, three young women from Afghanistan have traveled to America to study at the Berkshire Waldorf School. The three students have obtained financial support from multiple organizations, including the Afghan Scout Relief Fund and the Afghan Girls Financial Assistance Fund.

The school initiated a fundraising campaign that raised \$12,000 from multiple private donors, including donations from Jane Iredale, Carole Owens [*DISCLAIMER: Carole Owens is a columnist for The Berkshire Edge*], and Bobbie Hallig, which has helped to cover the costs of program fees and school supplies. The school has waived all tuition fees for the students, who are staying with families in the local area.

For the sake of the students' security, The Berkshire Edge has agreed with the school not to publish the students' full names but instead identify them by their first names: Masuda, Humaira, and Sara.

"Because of what is happening right now in Afghanistan, everything is being monitored by the Taliban," Berkshire Waldorf Communications Consultant Nichole Dupont told The Berkshire Edge. "To reveal their full names would also potentially reveal who their families are. We don't want their families to experience any kind of trouble or danger. These three young women didn't leave the country illegally, but it certainly wasn't in broad daylight."

"It's dangerous for these women to get an education," Dupont explained. "Education for these young women is illegal, even if it's online education. They're not even allowed to attend classes online. All educational opportunities have been denied to them."

The school became involved with bringing the three students to America to pursue an education through Afghan girls' education advocate Mike Weinstein. In late January, Weinstein reached out via email to over 100 high schools in Massachusetts trying to see if any of the schools would be able to take the three students.

According to Admissions Director Samantha Stier, the organizations helped to get the three students out of Afghanistan. "We couldn't have done any of this without the support of the organizations and our host families," Stier said.

"The organizations created a network in Afghanistan and Pakistan, like an underground railroad. They worked directly to get these girls to Pakistan for their visa interviews. The visa interview is extremely complicated because one slight [wrong] answer means rejection. The students had to spend weeks practicing for visa interviews, going over and over again any possible question that might come up."

Stier said that the girls had to overcome many hurdles to get to America. "The host families are providing room, board, and transportation to and from school," Stier said. "On top of that, there's a degree of emotional support that is required for these students who are leaving their homes for the first time, and they might not ever see their families again."

Stier said she is happy that the school is in a position where they can provide an education for the three students. "I think a lot of times, people read these stories on the news and feel helpless," Stier said.

"Here is a situation where the school was able to work with organizations, host families, and donors to make a difference for these three young women. My heart breaks for the millions of women and girls in Afghanistan who haven't gotten that chance. But it's still, I think it's great to be a part of the school that can do that."

"I had a chance to take the girls out to lunch, and what resonated with me is the great risk that their families have taken, and the risks they have taken, all to get an education," Dupont said. "Education is everything to them. They may never return to Afghanistan, and they may never see their own families again. It's hard for me to talk about this without tearing up."

"Considering everything they have been through, including the incredible homesickness, culture shock, and being away from their families, they are doing well academically," Stier added.

"Their English is excellent, and they are adapting and learning. The culture is just so completely different, and there's no way you can be prepared for that world of difference. But considering all of this, they are doing really well and so happy to be here."

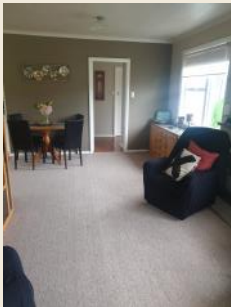
COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

2 bedroom unit available to rent in Thorp Street

Update: Available from 31 November

Fully furnished with heat pump and fire. All linen provided. Gas, power, rubbish, water, gardens and internet included. Has plenty of room for parking. Storage shed. Situated in quiet back section 3/4 acre. With fruit trees, veggie garden, etc.

It has a queen bedroom. And a double bunk bedroom. So would be suitable up to a family of four. The rental would be \$ 610.00 per week.



Bond of 2 weeks rent and then rent to be paid weekly in advance. Contact: kcsthe.one1@gmail.com

3 Bedroom house for rent

My house in Motueka has previously been rented to a number of families of students attending your school but has been unavailable for the past three years. It will be available again early 2025. It is a three bedroomed house with sleep out and games room, swimming pool and spa.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any potential families looking for suitable accommodation and I can provide more detailed information.

Peter Lewis-Smith

0211413289



Cello for sale

Asian Student Cello with new bow and a hardcovered Cello case.

Asking price: \$750

Contact Gundula McKibben

Ph: 0210659902

MRSST GUM FIREWOOD FOR SALE

Great time to stock up your wood supply for Winter 2025.

MRSST has two piles of cut Gum on the School's Seaview paddock. Price negotiable depending on your trailer or container size. To schedule a pick-up please email: accounts@mrsst.nz or call Mauricio on 021 173 1153

LAND ART WORKSHOP

Looking for a creative and memorable school holiday experience in the outdoors with your (grand)child?

Join us for a 1-day Land Art Workshop at beautiful Rabbit Island!

Choose from two dates:
January 15th or 22nd 2025 - perfect for a day of bonding and artistic expression surrounded by nature.

Bring your imagination and discover the art of nature

Book your spot today for an inspiring day of creativity, fun, and connection!

For more information and to book go to
studio127.co.nz



Tell Tales collective

watch your stories unfold

29 November, Revite cafe

7.00 pm

Improvvised Playback theatre suggested contribution \$10