

### FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK



*The first light of advent is the light of stones,  
Stones that live in crystals, in seashells and in bones.  
The second light of advent is the light of plants,  
Plants that reach up to the sun, and in the breezes dance.  
The third light of advent is the light of beasts,  
The light of hope that we may see in the greatest and in the least.  
The fourth light of advent is the light of humankind,  
The light of love, the light of thought, to give and to understand.*

*Traditional*

Kia ora e te whānau

This past Friday we celebrated the start of Advent with all the children in the school from Kohatu to Class 7. The children walked a beautiful Advent spiral which the teachers prepared for them the day before with greenery and pink roses. Each child had the opportunity to walk the spiral to the accompaniment of Annemieke on the harp. They carried little clay hearts which they made earlier in the term described with patterns and an appropriate Advent message or word. The clay hearts were laid in a harakeke basket woven by Lindsey. Afterwards they enjoyed some star cookies baked by Jolie and her team of Class 4 and 5 students.

A huge congratulations to our Volleyball team, Sterling, Nia, Robbie, Kohaku, Frida, and Malia for winning all their matches and for emerging as the Volleyball champions at the Murchison Spikers Festival. We are very grateful to Lis McCracken for accompanying them on the day.

We are welcoming two new staff members next year. Helga Reissmann has been appointed as the class teacher for Class 5 and 6, and Helen Webster will take over from Liz in Kohatu. Helen has a long association with our kindergarten and will be known to many of you. Helga has a long-standing interest in Steiner education and was one of our regular relievers earlier in the year. We warmly welcome both teachers to our College of Teachers and wish them a long and successful association with our school.

We bid farewell to Liz, Isla, and Olivia. We wish them all the best on their new adventures and thank them sincerely for their dedication to our tamariki over the years.

We extend deep gratitude to our School Board as well as the Proprietors Trust for their on-going support and all the volunteer hours which they so graciously give to support the school. Thank you to our dedicated office staff who are just gold dust, and without whom our tasks will be so much more challenging. I am deeply grateful to all the teachers and support staff who educate our tamariki with so much love and care. And last, but not least, thank you to all our supportive parents for your loyalty and dedication to the school and to the students.

Meri Kirihimete! Have a wonderful summer holiday and enjoy time with your whānau.

*E huri tō aroaro ki te rā,  
tukuna tō ataarangi ki muri i a koe.*

Ngā mihi

Elizabeth



## Term 4 2024 and Term 1 2025

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

Friday 13 December	End of Year Assembly and Graduation	
Monday 3 February 2025	Nelson Anniversary	No School
Tuesday 4 February 2025	First Day of School 2025	
Thursday 6 February	Waitangi Day	No School
Thursday 10 April	Last day Term 1	
Friday 11 April	Teacher Only Day	No School

# CLASSROOM CORNER

## KōHATU

Kia ora



As summer has truly arrived, the children seem to be bubbling with the joy of it. They are busy, seemingly wanting to make the most of the last few weeks in Kōhatu, before

moving up the hill to the "big" school. It's a delight watching the children swing from being immersed deeply in imaginative, creative and inclusive play, to wanting to try out new skills, like skipping with a rope, getting ready to move from learning by imitation to more formal teaching.

In our morning circle we are doing a little nativity play which the children are receiving with obvious reverence, and excitement. The morning circle and our advent stories are both creating a feeling of anticipation of the coming Christmas time.

It has been a real privilege sharing this journey with the Kōhatu children and Liz this year, and as Liz is coming to the end of her teaching years we wish her a graceful, fun-filled journey ahead!

With much love and Christmas blessings

Arohanui

Lotti, on behalf of the Kohatu team



# HANDWORK

Handwork is a hidden but vital part of the Steiner curriculum and most parents do not know how important it is and pay little thought to how much effort their child puts into it. Handwork supports the child as they struggle to gain control over themselves and understanding of the world around them and their place in it. The projects done are designed to promote gross and fine motor control, as well supporting them to count, subtract, add, problem solve and develop their sense of self. This year has seen a huge up skilling of all the children with many gaining a solid understanding of the skills involved and enjoyment of the process. Every child has finished at least one project and many have finished their projects and are looking forward to next year's. Well done all of you beautiful children.



## BOOK DAY

We celebrated Book Day this past term, and it was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate reading and highlight the importance of books in our lives. The dress-up event was a lot of fun, with everyone showcasing a variety of characters that introduced us to new stories. The book exchange was also a success, and the treasure hunt for a book title in the playground was a delightful addition to the day! (photos to follow)

## SPORTS DAY

We had a fantastic Sports Day this term, with perfect weather to match the excitement! The children participated in sprints, long-distance races, discus, accuracy throw, and long jump, but the real highlights were undoubtedly the three-legged and sack races. It was also wonderful to see the parents join in and test their athletic skills in their own race. Well done to everyone for showing such great spirit, cheering each other on, and demonstrating encouragement and sportsmanship - this is truly what we're all about!



# SNAPSHOTS OF OUR SCHOOL



Advent circle



Book Day



Class 4 & 5



Kōhatu picnic



Nelson Cathedral—MSS Tree



# 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.

Kōhatu students will finish at 1:15pm.

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

Consent forms are due Friday 6 Dec:

<https://forms.gle/FbfVkBqyRqb6NnsG6>

## END OF YEAR OFFICE NOTICES

- **Lost and found** property will be donated to a local charity shop after the last day of term. Please ensure you have been through the basket that is outside the staff room.
- **Missing gardening tools**—The Farm to Table gardening tools went missing after the Fair Working Bee. There are no more hand tools left for the students to work with. If you know of their whereabouts, please contact the office.
- **School phone and messages**—Children are instructed not to use the school phone unless it is for an emergency. Please ensure your child knows how they are returning home on the day (bus or by car). We ask that no playdates are arranged during the day as we do not have the capacity to deliver messages to children. We understand that there may be out of the ordinary situations, and we will do our best to accommodate those.

Thank you for reading the newsletter  
and Happy Holidays from the office team!

## REMINDER FROM SCHOOL BUS PROVIDER

*One important message that is important to continue to reiterate to your student's caregivers, is that they are responsible for getting their children to school, which may involve getting the children to and from their nearest bus stop.*

*It is also important to encourage your caregivers to either stay with their tamariki in the morning while they are waiting for their school transport, or to keep in contact with them to make sure that they are picked up safely. I recommend students be at the bus stop 5 to 10 minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive. These actions are particularly important for the start of the school year while both students and school transport services settle in.*

## CONGRATULATIONS



# THE MEANING AND PURPOSE OF ADVENT



The Advent season is a four-week period before Christmas that celebrates the anticipation and coming of the Christ. The origin of "advent" is from the Latin word *adventus* which simply translates as "coming" or "arrival". There are beautiful and rich traditions behind the celebration of Advent.

## The History and Origin of Advent

No one really knows when Advent first began. However, in the late 400s, St. Gregory of Tours wrote in the History of the Franks that St. Perpetuus decreed a three-week fast from the time of the feast of St. Martin until Christmas. Whether this was a new custom being instated or an existing observance being enforced is unsure. In 567 at the second Council of Tours, monks began to practise fasting on the first of December through to Christmas day.

## The Four Weeks of Advent

The four Sundays of Advent each have a specific theme or focus. The purpose of each theme is to spend time reflecting on the true meaning of Christmas.

**First Sunday of Advent Week 1: Hope (or promise)**

**Second Sunday of Advent Week 2: Preparation (or waiting or prophecy)**

**Third Sunday of Advent Week 3: Joy (or peace)**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent Week 4: Love (or adoration)**

## Advent Calendars

Advent calendars carry an underlying spiritual message of anticipation and hope. While many outside the Christian tradition enjoy their yearly countdown calendar (and its hidden treats), the meaning behind the Advent calendar remains steeped in religious themes. More than just a countdown, marking the days of Advent serve as a time of spiritual reflection and preparation.

Instead of strictly following the four-week Advent period, which can start anywhere from November 27 to December 3, an Advent calendar typically begins on December 1 and counts down the days until Christmas. Advent calendars now come in many forms, but the tradition began simply enough when German families in the mid-nineteenth century started counting the days until Christmas by tallying chalk marks on a door or wall. Variations of the countdown included lighting a candle or hanging a religious picture for each day leading up to Christmas Eve. Some families began making homemade Advent calendars to accompany their countdown and by the early 1900s, a few publishing companies and newspapers had produced simple printed calendars. There are many unique styles of Advent calendars. Some are overtly Christian while others play to the more secularized and generic aspects of the holiday season. For families who want to keep their

## Advent Wreath and Candles

The Advent wreath first appeared in Germany in 1839. A Lutheran minister working at a mission for children created a wreath out of the wheel of a cart. He placed twenty small red candles and four large white candles inside the ring. The red candles were lit on weekdays and the four white candles were lit on Sundays. Eventually, the Advent wreath was created out of evergreens, symbolizing everlasting life as the evergreen is continuously green. The circle reminds us of God's unending love.

Advent candles shine brightly in the midst of darkness, symbolizing and reminding us that the Christ came as Light into our dark world. The candles are often set in a circular Advent wreath. In Scandinavia, Lutheran churches light a candle each day of December; by Christmas, they have twenty-four candles burning. Another Advent candle option is a single candle with twenty-four marks on the side - the candle is lit each day and allowed to melt down to the next day's mark.

The most common Advent candle tradition, however, involves four candles around the wreath. A new candle is lit on each of the four Sundays before Christmas. Each candle represents something different, although traditions vary. Often, the first, second, and fourth candles are purple; the third candle is rose-coloured. Sometimes all the candles are red; in other traditions, all four candles are blue or white. Occasionally, a fifth white candle is placed in the middle of the wreath and is lit on Christmas Day to celebrate Jesus' birth.

The advent candles correspond to the themes of each week of advent. Families and church congregations begin lighting a candle on the fourth Sunday before Christmas, and they light another candle each subsequent Sunday.

The **first candle** symbolizes **hope** and is called the "Prophet's Candle." The prophets of the Old Testament, especially Isaiah, waited in hope for the Messiah's arrival.

The **second candle** represents **faith** and is called "Bethlehem's Candle." Micah had foretold that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, which is also the birthplace of King David.

The **third candle** symbolizes **joy** and is called the "Shepherds' Candle." To the shepherds' great joy, the angels announced that Jesus came for humble, unimportant people like them, too. In liturgy, the colour rose signifies joy.

The **fourth candle** represents **peace** and is called the "Angels' Candle." The angels announced that Jesus came to bring peace.

The (optional) **fifth candle** represents **light and purity** and is called "Christ's candle." It is placed in the middle and is lit on Christmas Day.

In Steiner/Waldorf schools we usually say the following verse when lighting the candles:

*The first light of Advent is the light of the stones—  
Stones that live in crystals, in seashells, and in bones.*

*The second light of Advent is the light of the plants—  
Plants that reach up to the sun and in the breezes dance.*

*The third light of Advent is the light of the animals—  
All await the birth, from the greatest and the least.*

*The fourth light of Advent is the light of humankind—  
The light of love, of hope and of thought*





# SPRING FAIR CONGRATULATIONS

What an amazing turnout for our Spring Fair!! And what an amazing achievement from everyone who contributed to it. Congratulations, and a huge appreciation to you all! Special thanks to the Fair Steering Group and all our volunteers who threw so much energy and commitment into its success. Also to our helpers for counting all the tickets. **Their final tally: \$44,000!!** Unbelievably true!

The students' art exhibition was viewed and appreciated by many people, (even the students themselves) with excellent comments! The art auction was not as successful with only 4 items



selling. We still have a Katie Gold bowl for sale at \$200, and 7 new Craig Potton photo books at \$25 each.



These will be in the office for viewing. Now with only a week to go till the end of

the school year we wish you a merry Christmas, Happy holidays, and a welcome back in 2025!

PT Chair Fred Robertson, Ian Dorney, David Gaston, Lachlan Grey, Warwick Sandler, Elizabeth Swanepoel (appointed guest)

Photo credit:

Wibke Foerger and  
Oliver Weber (aerials)













## MESSAGE FROM BOT

Kia ora koutou

The Board of Trustees held its last meeting of the year on Tuesday 3 December and had a full agenda. Among other things the Board approved the school's operating budget for 2025. The Board would like to thank school management and administration staff for putting a lot of effort into this line of work. The Board also refreshed and adopted the school's Strategic Plan (2024-2026) and Annual Aims for 2025.

The Board was pleased to welcome Samuel Piozin-Belloir as a Board Member appointed by the Proprietors' Trust. Samuel will be taking over the Presiding Member (Chair) role from Pippa Allen who had been doing the role on an interim basis. Samuel and his family have been members of our community for many years and we welcome his willingness to now serve the community in this way.

The Board wishes everyone a relaxing holiday period.

## MESSAGE FROM SEANZ

Kia ora tatou

*I am delighted to announce that Arlene Cairns has been appointed to the role of CEO for Steiner Education Aotearoa New Zealand.*

*Arlene comes to us with significant experience in Steiner Waldorf Education across South Africa, New Zealand and Australia. This includes being in a variety of leadership roles in schools - including as Principal or Educational Director, teaching in classes 1 to 13, and mentoring and training new and experienced teachers. She has a thorough understanding of the principles of Steiner education and how the curriculum meets the needs of the students who attend Steiner/ Waldorf Schools.*

*In Arlene's leadership roles, she has experience representing the entire Steiner Waldorf movement to a variety of partners including government and other agencies. She has worked on ensuring schools meet outside funding and best practice requirements in educational environments, while also preserving the integrity of the school as an independent school following Steiner Waldorf principles. Alongside, she has helped others to develop their understanding of the Steiner movement and its educational practice.*

*Arlene continues to extensively study anthroposophy, especially as it relates to education, and works to ensure the principles of Steiner Waldorf education are incorporated into the educational system we experience today.*

*With Arlene's experience and adherence to anthroposophical principles, she comes to SEANZ with the philosophical, educational and leadership knowledge and skills needed to achieve and embody the mission and values of SEANZ.*

*I know you will join me in welcoming Arlene to SEANZ. She will start her new role with us in the New Year, following a handover process with Janet and the Board.*

Kia pai tō rā

Andrea Wakelin

(on behalf of the SEANZ Board)

## KINDERGARTEN



As we approach the end of the year, it's a wonderful time to reflect on the many moments of growth, connection, and joy we've shared at the kindergarten. This year has been filled with curiosity and learning, as the children played and explored the rhythms of the seasons, built friendships, and discovered the world around them.

We want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our families for your support and involvement. From helping at the Spring Fair to the everyday care you show, your contributions have enriched our community and made this a truly special place for the children.

As we prepare to rest and recharge over the summer, we wish you all a peaceful holiday season filled with warmth and togetherness. We look forward to welcoming our returning whānau back in the new year for another chapter in this shared journey of discovery, and we wish the whānau well who are moving on to Kōhatu and beyond.

Warm wishes,

The Kindergarten Team



# COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

## Practical Application Workshops

Dear Steiner community, teachers and parents-  
an event notice for March 2025:

Last year's Steiner practical application workshops were a huge success, therefore, the Nelson/Motueka Anthroposophical Society is planning a weekend of workshops for next year.

Date: Saturday March 8th and Sunday March 9th 2025

Venue: Motueka Steiner School

More information coming at the beginning of Term 1 next year.

Please note the date. Any queries, thoughts or suggestions please email before January 20th, 2025 :

Fiona Guyan at [fguyan@inspire.net.nz](mailto:fguyan@inspire.net.nz)

Hilda Mazza at [HMazza@gmail.com](mailto:HMazza@gmail.com)

Happy summer holidays to all, warmly Hilda

## 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](mailto:accounts@mrsst.nz) or call Mauricio on 021 173 1153

## Angelic Reiki Cleanse and Atunement with Martha Mullings



It is the absolute joy of working hand in hand with the Angelic Kingdom of Light to bring one of the highest forms of healing to individuals, groups and the planet. Angels exist outside the different dimensions as we know them.

Through their guidance, and the healing art of Angelic Reiki, we can positive-

ly influence the creative energy systems of any individual or group according to Divine Will. This could be on a physical, emotional or mental level.

Angelic Reiki is not just another Reiki or healing system. It is the fulfilment of the Divine's invitation for your return to Home, through the Angelic Kingdom of Light. This system will support you on your own personal healing journey. It may also reveal your dharma and life purpose. Everyone who has been touched by this energy through either a healing or workshop have said that it is different.

You will know if you feel called, please join the angelic reiki cleanse and atunement on the bottom field by the oak tree or the nearest area of shade. An hour for you to deeply relax and receive a group guided cleanse and atunement. Please bring what you need to be comfortable seated or lying down (mat, cushions, chair, blanket.) Water and maybe a snack for the end to ground before pick up.

**Zi Du Du Ren**

**Uplifting our own life and uplifting others**

**Wednesday 11th December 1:45 - 2:45pm koha**

**Facilitated by Martha Mullings**

## German Family visiting NZ

Hello, we are a family of five from Germany looking for a place to work and live for 2-3 months from January. We've been thinking about spending some time abroad for quite a while and have now decided to take the step. However, we don't want to travel around but rather immerse ourselves in a place, stay, and offer meaningful support. We are hoping to find a place where us and our children can connect with other people in a mutually supportive way. Ideally, we would find an organic farm or similar that can host a family in exchange for work, where our children can also learn alongside other children.

A bit about us: We live and work in Karlsruhe, Germany. We have been involved with the Steiner organization "Friends of Waldorf Education" – volunteering services abroad – for many years. Currently, Tatjana works there as a team leader, and Caspar is an organizational development consultant. In addition, we have experience with manual labor and working on biodynamic farms. We love being outdoors and enjoy hiking, surfing, and fishing. :-)  
So, if you have any ideas or know of a place that might be suitable, that would be wonderful. Best regards! Tatjana, Caspar, Carlo, Noah, Luka. Ph or txt 0272926963

## 2 Bedroom Cottage for Rent

Our freshly refurbished two bedroom cottage is available to rent. Located on an organic farm in the Motueka Valley, gorgeous riverside setting, 30mins drive to town.

Suitable for a couple or small family who share our values for conscious living and a quiet, gentle lifestyle. \$400/wk rent (excludes power/gas/internet, these are additional). Cottage is unfurnished. References are required. Long term or short term considered for the right applicants.

Contact Amy 0275635507 or [amymasseynz@gmail.com](mailto:amymasseynz@gmail.com) with your expression of interest.



## Cello for sale

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

Asking price: \$750

Contact Gundula McKibben

Ph: 0210659902



# TASMAN DISTRICT LIBRARIES SUMMER READING ADVENTURE

6 JAN - 28 FEB



AGES 5+

tasman district  
libraries

## What's On!

Discover free Summer Reading Adventure events at Motueka Library Te Noninga Kumu.

Discover

### Out & About!

Join in at our Summer Reading Adventure events at Kiyosato Gardens (cancelled if raining).

Mondays 6, 13 & 20 January  
10.00am - 12.00pm

### Lego® Fun!

Take a break from the sun and create with loads of Lego and lots of fun!

Thursdays 9, 16 & 23 January  
10.00am - 12.00pm

### Get Crafty!\*

We supply the materials, you supply the inspiration for summer craft in the library.

Wednesdays 8, 15 & 22 January  
10.00am - 12.00pm  
Wednesdays 12, 19, 26 February  
3.30pm - 4.30pm

### Family Picnic!

Celebrate summer on Decks Reserve with food, music, games and more.

Wednesday, 29 January  
10.00am - 12.00pm  
Theme: Enchanted Forest

\* NOTE: Get Crafty sessions in February are held after school, 3.30pm-4.30pm.

2024/25

## SUMMER HOLIDAY PROGRAMMES



### GO WILD

7 - 10 YRS

5 DAYS, 9am - 3pm  
\$400pp



13 - 17 JAN

27 - 30 JAN (4 DAYS)

### KAITIAKI KIDS

10 - 12 YRS

5 DAYS, 9am - 3pm  
\$400pp



20 - 24 JAN

### JUNIOR JOURNEY

11 - 13 YRS

4 DAYS, 3 NIGHTS  
\$360pp\*



27 - 30 JAN



### SENIOR JOURNEY

14 - 16 YRS

4 DAYS / 3 NIGHTS  
\$360pp\*



27 - 30 JAN

Sign up to our newsletter for early notice about our holiday programmes



enrol online: [www.wio.org.nz](http://www.wio.org.nz)



This programme can count towards the Duke of Edinburgh's Award

\*Subsidised cost for Nelson, Tasman, Marlborough & West Coast participants



**Atamai Heritage Orchard**  
is once again selling delicious  
apple juice  
in 3 L bladders for \$15 each.



The apples are grown on land that has a covenant which requires it to be treated as if it is BioGro certified organic. The orchard is lovingly stewarded by a group of volunteers. It is not a commercial enterprise and any funds generated by fruit and juice sale go back to the land for future generations.

## Sustainable home for sale



A unique opportunity has arisen to purchase a 300m<sup>2</sup> sustainably built, carefully crafted and Tuscan-inspired property on nearly one hectare of organic land, complete with breathtaking views of the Kahurangi Ranges.

Every detail of this home has been selected with quality and environmental care in mind, featuring wool insulation, terracotta floors, double glazing, and underfloor heating in two bathrooms. Luxurious touches abound, seamlessly blending modern convenience with nurturing design.

Outside, embrace this idyllic lifestyle with bush, swings, a playhouse, fruit trees, olive groves, and tranquil paddocks. Located just minutes from the Motueka Steiner School and the heart of Motueka, this property perfectly balances privacy and community. (Sunsets may vary and sheep not included )

Call Kimberly for your private viewing 021 131 0959.

## Like to dance?



Would you like to try something new?  
Have-a-go classes  
being run for children by the  
Motueka Scottish Country Dancing  
Club on Wednesday  
12th, 19th and 26th February 2025  
4-5pm Lower Moutere Community  
Hall.

For further details please contact  
Fay on 021 039 3559 or email  
motueka@dancescottish.org.nz

Gold coin donation.  
No special clothes or previous experience  
required, and you don't need to be Scottish!



**DONATE NOW**

Helping local families in hardship  
have a joyful Christmas



Donate today:  
[www.fifeshirefoundation.co.nz](http://www.fifeshirefoundation.co.nz)



## HOW TO GIVE

We are strongly encouraging cash donations and gift vouchers. This will help us ensure that we get your generous donations to those who need it and allow whānau to enjoy the most suitable gifts.

Ideal gift voucher examples are for toys, treats, food and family activities. Thank you for your generosity! If you want to give a physical gift, please donate NEW Christmas gifts.

Donate: <https://www.fifeshirefoundation.co.nz/donate-1>