

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK



Institutes and community initiatives need to collaborate as never before to guard our freedom in the cultural sphere so that: children can be educated based on developmental insights (not politically motivated mandates), teachers are free to teach with spontaneous creativity (not bound by standardized goals), and administrators and leaders can make decisions on behalf of those they serve (not just out of compliance or financial constraints). Freedom is a spiritual condition that is hard to win and easy to lose.

- Torin Finser

Kia ora e te whānau

This past weekend the Motueka Anthroposophical Group hosted the centenary celebrations of Rudolf Steiner's death on 30 March 1925. The weekend started with an inspirational lecture by dr. René de Monchy, followed on Saturday by various thought-provoking workshops, and culminated on Sunday morning by a celebration of Rudolf Steiner and the many initiatives he gifted to the world. Many thanks to Hilda Mazza and her team who worked tirelessly behind the scenes, organizing the centenary, and providing scrumptious teas and treats to eat. Congratulations to our choir who sang so beautifully on Friday evening.

We are very fortunate to be a fully staffed school at this time when many schools have multiple vacancies and no applicants to third rounds of advertising. We are also fortunate in having almost all our teachers trained in Steiner pedagogy. So, a heartfelt congratulations to Paula Finch, our bubbly Class 7 teacher, who graduated with her *Certificate in Rudolf Steiner Education* from Taruna College at the end of last year. Well done, Paula! At our College of Teachers meetings once a week we continue to upskill ourselves by studying works on Steiner education and by engaging in conversations around the presentations. We also look into the riddles of our tamariki and what we can do to meet their pedagogical and academic needs by regularly presenting child studies.

Once a term we have a cooked lunch for all the staff to thank them for their hard work and dedication. It is lovely to sit around a table at lunch time and enjoy camaraderie and kai together. Last week we did this again and was fed with delicious food by our star cook, Tracey Wood. Thank you, Tracey for a delightful lunch!

We will conclude our term with the Harvest Celebration and Sharing Assembly on Friday 28 March, and the Easter Festival on Wednesday 9 April. The Easter Festival will be an internal festival only with the children. The Harvest Celebration and Sharing Assembly will be at 1:45 for the community.

*Kia mau ki te tūmanako,
te whakapono me te aroha.*

Ngā mihi, Elizabeth



■ Kindergarten

Term 1 dates

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

■ Friday 14 March	Kindergarten Working Bee	1:15-2:45
■ Friday 21 March	Kindergarten Harvest Festival	1:15-2:45
Tuesday 25 March	BoT Meeting	5:00 pm
Friday 28 March	Sharing Assembly	1:45 pm
Friday 11 April	ToD/Last day of term 1	No School
■ Friday 11 April	Last day of term 1	

CLASSROOM CORNER

KOHATU

We have had a lovely start to the year connecting with each other, having bountiful play together and exploration of the Kōhatu garden space. Each Wednesday we have adventure day where we trek over the hill into the native tree valley and immerse in nature. Making tracks in the long grass, huts under the trees, finding the creatures that live there and climbing about the hillside. The children are getting to know this little paradise well.

A reminder please to pack a full change of clothes each day and include layers as the weather changes. Please prepare to have a full set of wet weather gear and gumboots too. If any school families have wet weather gear to donate or sell please drop it in to Kōhatu.



Thank you, Helen and Lotti.

HANDWORK

It was lovely to see everyone come back from holidays refreshed and ready for this coming year in handwork, even though some had been busy knitting during the holidays.

Class One has been making their needles and learning how to knit, with the first snail finished last week.



Class two are moving into knitting animals with a pride of lions being started.

Class 3 and 4 started the year off weaving a small bag and now they are getting to the end of that project they are moving into embroidered pencil cases and cross stitch fountain pen cases.



Class 5 have been sewing a cutlery holder for their outdoor kitchen class and as a whole Moana have been screen printing a scarab beetle, with one child joking that she didn't think Steiner allowed screen time.



Class 7 is now settling into their first project of the year of a self designed bag .

It is lovely seeing happy faces as children start their lessons confident in their skills and eager to take on new challenge.

davina.clarke@motuekasteiner.school.nz

SCHOOL NOTICES

SHARING ASSEMBLY

Save the date: Friday 28 March 1:45pm
'Autum Harvest Celebration'

Followed by Mahana's market: food, drinks,
crafts music, etc.

DRESS CODE

We have updated the school dress code. Please
see document attached along with the news-
letter.

NO PARKING AT THE ROUNDABOUT



We ask parents to please use the
roundabout for drop-off and pick-
up only. Please do not leave your
car unattended as the bus may
need you to move if you are
blocking the way.

MATCHBOX CASTLE

Last year saw us raise
more money during the
Spring Fair than previ-
ously and it was amaz-
ing to see how many
magic treasure fairies
we had fluttered in and
swoop off with pre-cut
felted treasures. Over
this Christmas period there has been an amaz-
ing felt fairy sitting at home (and when she is
out and about) cutting shapes for us to sew.
While I appreciate it is early in the season, the
nights are drawing in and it is a good way to
keep busy on the longer nights. I have been
trying to keep things simple so projects may
need to have a face added to it and then sewn
and stuffed. Anybody wanting a challenge,
please just me know, as I have a few.



Kind regards,

Keeper of the Castle
Davina

TEACHER INITIATIVE

A Vision for Our School Community - Craft, Coffee,
and Connection

In 2023, I had a vision for our wonderful school—a
vision that began with the idea of creating a library
at the new school, a special place where children
could gather and continue discovering the magic of
books. With the incredible support from our school
community, that vision became a reality, and today,
our library is a thriving, beloved spot where children
look forward to spending their Tuesday and Friday
breaks. It was truly heartwarming to see it come to
life.

With that beautiful project done, I started chatting
last year to a few people about my next vision: a
Steiner Craft and Coffee shop! Picture this—one of
the containers we have placed on the grassy verge
on the right-hand side of our school entrance,
transformed into a charming space complete with
windows and a cozy counter top, so that each Fri-
day afternoon from 1:30 to 3:00, we could open
same and offer a variety of Steiner stationery, Mid-
night Elves creations, fresh produce from our land,
and maybe even a cup of coffee or a delicious
homemade cake, prepared by the students in the
outdoor kitchen, for sale. Parents could relax at
wooden picnic tables, enjoying a cup of tea or cof-
fee and treat while waiting to collect their children.

In order to bring this vision to life, I'm reaching out
to our wonderful school community. If you have any
skills that could help, or if you have items that could
make the shop a reality, I would be so grateful for
your support. So whether you can lend a hand with
building, creating, or donating materials, your help
would be invaluable.

Please feel free to drop me a line if you're interest-
ed or have any ideas to contribute. Together, I know
we can make this vision a reality and create anoth-
er beautiful, welcoming space for our school. Thank
you so much for your ongoing support—I can't wait
to see what we can achieve together!

Blessings,

Miss Terry

2022

WAREHOUSE STOCKTAKE FUNDRAISER

SATURDAY 22 MARCH

Dear Community,

We have the opportunity to raise funds at the annual Warehouse Motueka stocktake, organised by the company RGIS.

We are looking for as many people as possible to help us stocktake at:

The Warehouse Motueka

Saturday 22.03.2025

Start time:

4:30pm with approximately 6-8 hours work

Or

7:30pm with approximately 3-5 hours work

But it is asked that we are flexible with the finish times as it depends on stock levels, number of staff etc.

No experience is required, training will be given on site with handheld scanner.

Each hour worked will fundraise \$23.15.

We have done this fundraiser successfully in the past. Last time we were 18 people with an average of 6.5 hours per person which would be \$2708 with today's rate. But of course, we could also make \$6620 if 44 people would work 6.5 hours. (They are needing 60 people and as of Friday they only had 16 booked in.)

Please have a think if this is something you are able support and if so, **please enter your details in the signup sheet asap and choose where you would like the funds to go to:**

Volunteer sign-up sheet: <https://signup.zone/Hr8DHLtQZQZJevSv9>

Fund allocation: <https://forms.gle/ubQRK5apAWEqxF657>

And yes, we are not going to lie, it is boring, and it is past most people's bedtime, but it is still a great opportunity to make fast money to support our children's Steiner education hence we want to do it again.

Warm regards,

Parent Fundraising Group

(Any questions, please contact Annemarie

pl.annemarie@motuekasteiner.school.nz)

PARENT INITIATIVE



Upcoming coffee catch up
Fridays:

21st March - 9am
04th April - 2.30pm

This is a parent initiative. If you feel like contributing and have the time, please get in touch! The more people contribute the more connection time we can co-create ☺

Arohanui ✨

Anna, Dunja, Devon and Karuna

KINDERGARTEN

Kia ora e te whānau.

Summer has faded and Autumn is here. We certainly feel the change of the season as the mornings become cooler and the days grow shorter. Autumn is a time of bounty, harvest, connectedness and community. You all might have noticed that we have set up a kindergarten fundraising stall by our front gate. Together with the kaiako, our tamariki have been busy doing their important Autumn mahi - collecting flower seeds, harvesting vegetables and fruits from our garden, and helping to put kindling into banana boxes. By engaging in this purposeful work, our tamariki are developing their will and creating a sense of pride in their work. We kindly ask for your support and participation in this as well. Whether you can contribute items or spare produce for the stall, or stop by to make a purchase, every bit of help makes a difference! Thank you.



Ngā mihi mahana,

The Kindergarten Team

Thursday After School
Club Craft
3.15 - 5.00pm
With Lindsey

Dear class families

This term Lindsey will start to run an after school club in the outdoor classroom for families that wish some extra after school care. The focus will be crafting with nature whilst being in nature. We will light the fire, cook popcorn and do small craft projects.

The session will begin in the outdoor classroom at 3.15pm. Lindsey will meet the students in the playground and supervise them until pick up at 5pm

It is essential to book your students into the session in advance and numbers will be capped. If it is very popular another evening will be added.

Please contact Lindsey for more information and bookings on 0211401244

Most every wisdom tradition cautions for the wise use of words, acknowledging their tremendous power to inspire and to wound. This might be most obvious on the world stage, where the words of someone like Martin Luther King Jr. can echo through history, capturing an era and galvanizing change.

But I see the power so much more commonly wielded in the family. Through the noise and bustle of daily life, a parent's words can help shape the way a child sees the world and, most importantly, sees themselves.

In our era of spin and counter-spin, when words are parsed and split, where news stands beside opinion and embraces blogs, meaning is often drowned out. Just as it's hard to cherish a toy lost in the middle of a mountain of playthings, when we say less, our words mean more.

One of the best filters I know for talking less has been attributed to (among others) the 19th-century guru Sai Baba, Socrates, the Bible, the Quakers, Rotarians, the poet Beth Day, the Sufis, and an early 20th-century Unitarian sermon.

Known by various names, including the Threefold Filter, it forms the basis of 'Right Speech', one of the pillars of the Buddhist Eightfold Noble Path. You could probably find an echo of it in every religion and culture, and like most basic truths, it's easier to remember than it is to put into practice.

I find that this filter works wonders for parents, wherever and whenever they remember to use it, in helping them speak less, and more consciously.

Before you say something, ask yourself these three questions: Is it true? Is it kind? Is it necessary? And I would add, will it help the child feel secure?

True.

Gossip and hear-say will fail the first filter every time. This filter alone is worth its weight in gold.

By asking ourselves if something's true before we say it, we also notice how often we pass off exaggeration, opinion and supposition as truth.

Imagine the 'verbal load' of your home all the words that swirl around, whether they come directly from family members or are brought in from outside.

Now imagine a basket at the front door for the rejects, the words that can't come in; in it are all of the unsubstantiated, nasty, hurtful, mean things that people say about one another. With the filter in place, is there more air, more quiet in the home?

By filtering your own speech, you lead by example, but you can use this as a guide for what you'll listen to as well. 'Hey mum, did you hear about the Andersons, and what their mum did?' 'No, but first, Kiki, is it true?' 'I think so – Amy told me, and I think her dad is maybe their accountant or something like that, or at least he used to be, so he would probably know.' 'No, darling, that doesn't sound like truth to me. I don't want to hear it.'

Kind. Is it kind?

If what you're about to say has passed the first filter – it is true – it must still pass a test of compassion: is it kind?

Some things that are true still don't need to be said, if doing so would be hurtful. Bullying wouldn't exist if children used this filter, but adults have to model and reinforce it first.

If a bully's most common weapons are put-downs – taunts or criticisms – parents sometimes engage in the same behaviour – through words and body language – under the guise of instructing or motivating a child.

Where I see parental over-involvement, I very often see put-downs. Sometimes in my work, whether in family therapy or in a school setting where there are bullying issues, I challenge parents to go on a three-week, self-imposed put-down diet.

By being more conscious of the put-downs they use with their children – the judgments, the names and the characterizations ('You always...' and 'You are so...') – they begin to see how 'admonishing' and 'challenging' can feel a lot like bullying.

'Is it kind?' is a critical filter, and home is a wonderful place to put it into practice. What better place to set a standard of kindness to others and to one another?

When we have to instruct our children, as parents, it helps to remember that even difficult truths can be said with kindness. Is it kind?

Necessary.

I think of this as the verbal 'clutter' filter. Is what I'm about to say necessary? Is this now my sixth pass at an explanation, and my children stopped listening during my third?

I don't take 'necessary' to mean that everything we say has to be instructive or have some larger educational or inspirational purpose. Instead, I take 'necessary' to mean 'more important than silence'. What enables us to read a word is the white space all around it, and without some intervening quiet we couldn't hear a thing.

Silence is important, especially in a noisy family in a noisy world. And noise is self-perpetuating; so, if your children grow accustomed to a 'noisy norm' they'll always try to create and maintain that level of clamour.

Silence is important, wherever and whenever we can find it. Given the importance of silence, the clutter filter, 'Is what I'm going to say necessary?' should clear the air in your home even further.

'Is it necessary?' will be most helpful in guiding your own speech. As your children begin to notice that you're saying less, they'll listen more. But it's tough to use this one as a filter for what you'll listen to from your children.

Necessary? 'Dad, I was thinking about space travel and I realized that jet packs might work even better on your shoes than on your back.' 'Mum! Quick! There's a ladybug in the bathroom and it's the same one I saw when I was five! It's in the exact same spot, only now I can't remember its name!'

Necessary? Yes, actually, these probably are 'necessary'. 'Please, please dad, can I have it?' 'Mitch, I said "no". You've already asked me twice; a third time's unnecessary.'

Securing.

There is so much going on in the world that we could possibly speak about in front of our children, but will it result in them feeling secure?

Certainly, we can't protect them from world tragedies, but we can filter what we share with them so that what we say will give them a feeling that they have a safe base here with us, their parents.

This four-part filter is beautiful in its simplicity. I sometimes jot down the words – 'true/kind/necessary/secure' – on my calendar or notebooks, just so I can carry them through the day.

Like everything worthwhile, it takes practise to consciously erect these filters somewhere between our minds and our mouths. Luckily, as parents, we have many opportunities a day, every day, to practice.

[Visit Simplicity Parenting here.](#)

TARUNA ONLINE

AUTHENTIC PARENTING COURSES

We're officially opening the doors to [Taruna Online's Authentic Parenting courses](#)—and we couldn't be more excited.

We've been working hard to bring you a thoughtfully curated collection of expert-led courses designed to support you in the beautiful (and sometimes overwhelming) journey of parenting. Whether you're looking to create strong family rhythms, navigate neurodiversity, or build confidence in storytelling, there's something here for you.

Here's a first look at the courses launching tomorrow:

Storytime – Develop the skills and confidence to tell stories that truly support your child → [preview Storytime and add your name to the waitlist](#)

Parenting Authentically – Practical tools and strategies to raise resilient, capable, and confident children → [preview Parenting Authentically and add your name to the waitlist](#)

Parenting for Lifelong Success – Lay the foundations for happy, well-rounded, and adaptable young people → [preview Parenting for Lifelong Success and add your name to the waitlist](#)

Parenting the First Three Years – Navigate the joys and challenges of the early years with confidence → [preview Parenting the First Three Years and add your name to the waitlist](#)

Rhythms for Life – Support family life and relationships through the power of daily rhythms → [preview Rhythms for Life and add your name to the waitlist](#)

Parenting the Neurodiverse Child – A deep dive into the wonderful, complex, and sometimes daunting world of neurodiversity → [preview Parenting the Neurodiverse Child and add your name to the waitlist](#)

We can't wait to share this next chapter with you.

Warmly,
The Team at Taruna

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD



Nissan X-Trail for Sale from mid April

This car is an import from Japan and we were the first owners in New Zealand. It served us very well during our almost 7 month in this beautiful country. Sadly we have to leave around mid April and that is why we are looking to sell the car around that time. The final date can be discussed. The car is available in the Motueka Area. (Optional in Chch around the end of April).

We used it during the summer holidays for camping. 2 adults easily fit in the rooftop tent and our 2 kids comfortably slept in the boot. Rear seats easily fold up. So in our opinion it is ideal for people who love to spend time outdoors. So we would like to sell the car and the tent as a package deal. Other options can be discussed upon request.

- Make: Nissan
- Model: X-Trail SE T32 2013 Black
- Selective 2WD and 4 WD
- Vehicle year: 2013
- Fuel type: petrol 91
- Transmission: Automatic
- Numbers of seats: up to 5
- Mileage: 138.000 KM
- WOF expiry: 11/03/26
- Rego expiry: 03/10/25
- Heavy duty roof rack
- Mechanical breakdown insurance until October, 2025 / Regularly serviced (every 10.000km)

Extras: ESC, Board computer, Keyless entry, Automatic climate control, Leather seats front and rear, Heated seats front and rear, Wing mirror heated and foldable, Cruise control, Bluetooth radio, NAVI, New rear breaks

Further extras in the package:

- Roof top tent with ladder (L= 2m, W= 1,3m , H=1m) 7 month old
- Self inflatable air mattress (Sleeps 2 Pers in the back of the car) 7 months old
- 4 Pillows
- Gas cooker
- 2 Anti-mosquito car window covers

Price: \$ 12.500 o.n.o.

Contact: Wibke - 027 326 0843/WhatsApp