



Tamar Valley Steiner School Newsletter

February 2023

Welcome to Term 1

Dear families,

The 2023 school year has arrived! Summer has blessed us with warm days, ripening fruit and some time to connect with family and friends. I hope you have all found sometime to breathe and recharge over the break. We have now returned to our daily rhythm of school.

2023 has begun as a year of transformation for the school. Over the holiday break there have been many changes on site at our main campus. The new Kinder/Prep build has continued, and we are excited to be welcoming Kinder and Prep and their families to St Leonards later this year. Over the summer break we have also put in essential long term drainage infrastructure and classroom configurations have been swapped to better match the learning needs of different age groups. A huge thank you to our Maintenance Officer Darren for all the coordination, thought and care he has put into this process. Thank you also to the Class teachers who have been busy preparing the rooms for their students. It has been so lovely to witness the arrival of the children into their new spaces. We have begun the transformation of the playground spaces with monkey bars, a sand pit and water play area near the oak tree for Class 1,2 3, and a basketball hoop and hard surface break out space, representing the beginnings of transforming the Class 4/5/6 play area. A swing and monkey bars will be installed in the first part of the term for this area.

With the coming of the new school year, I have stepped into the role as Principal. Although the title holds a traditional notion in our minds of a position of authority, at Tamar Valley Steiner School we practice collaborative leadership, and my role, like all of us at the school, is to be of service to the education of the children. I am humbled by the opportunity to work alongside so many amazing people and to serve this school and its community as we continue to grow. A huge thank you to Michael for his

leadership and care during the second half of 2022 as Acting Principal. I am filled with awe and gratitude for what he was able to bring to the school during that time. We are blessed to have Michael continuing as part of the College of Teachers, as the Class 5 Teacher. Please read on to find a note of gratitude to Michael from our School Board Chair.

I look forward to building connections with you all as we journey into the school year. You will spot me on duty each morning at the entrance of the school. Please feel free to approach me any time, even if I am hiding in the poa grass weeding! You can also contact School Administration and make an appointment to meet with me on any matter concerning the school.

Thank you Michael

On behalf of the Northern Tasmanian Steiner Association Board, I would like to acknowledge and express gratitude to Michael Harries for his service to the school as Acting Principal.

Michael stepped into this short-term role mid-2022 without hesitation and has been very obliging in extending his tenure as required. During his time as Acting Principal Michael has overseen and participated in some significant activities including strategic planning and school registration as well as site developments and improvements. Michael has gone above and beyond expectations on many occasions in the best interests of the school and broader community, and for this the Board is very grateful.

Michael has been a valuable member of the school community since inception, initially as a parent before moving into volunteering, teaching and management. And the Board is pleased to know that Michael will be staying on with the school in a teaching capacity following the completion of his term as Acting Principal. Michael's sound understanding of Steiner's philosophy in relation to education, professionalism and personal attributes are highly valued by the Board and it is heart-warming to know that Michael will remain within our community.

Darren Green

Chair of the Board

Notes of Gratitude to:

- The families who attended our working bees. Thank you for giving up your time in the holidays to the school and providing students with clean desks,
- Darren, for his tireless service to the school. For the long workdays and multi-tasking juggle you have managed with endurance and composure.
- The wonderful holiday administration team, Caj, Lianne, Erica, Ash and Tayla in preparing for the year. So much happens behind the scenes.

- The teachers for spending time over the summer break at year level intensive training, managing their classroom moves, planning and setting up the new classroom learning spaces.
- Lauren for running literacy (Orton Gillingham) training our teachers and learning assistants and facilitating the visit of Educational Psychologist, Annette Barone during the holidays.
- To Helen (K/P) and Sarah (Class 1) who have been busy with home visits and building connections with the children prior to the beginning of the school year.
- To Matt Pickering who has spent many hours here during the holidays managing our Kinder/Prep build and the installation of the school site drainage system. The construction of a beautiful ochre rendered retaining wall and hard surface space for class six gives us a sense of how our existing site can be transformed as we continue to upgrade our facilities.







Welcome to Class 1

It was such a beautiful start to the year as we gathered to Welcome the 22 new Class 1 students and their teacher, Sarah Green to the primary school.

The lily ceremony for Class 1's first day of school is a tradition at Tamar Valley Steiner School. The white lily represents purity, innocence, and new beginnings. Each child bravely stepped forward to be greeted by Carolyn and Sarah, and receive a lily from Class 6 students, our oldest children in the school.

We are blessed to have so many lovely families joining us here at the St Leonards campus. It was great to have so many of them join us for a new parent morning tea following the ceremony. The kitchen was buzzing with the sounds of enlivened chatter and warm connection.

The Class 1 children are all settling in well and seem to be enjoying their new classroom and play space.





Reminders:

- **Strategic Plan Community Survey – Last Chance to have your say!**

Thank you to all the families who have completed the strategic planning questionnaire. This is a timely reminder for those who are still interested, but have not yet managed to respond, the survey will close at the end of the week 10/2/23.

Please use this link to do the survey

- **Drop off/pick up times**

Morning - St Leonards school supervision will begin at 8:30am classes start at 8.50am sharp. Bell will be rung at 8.45am.

Afternoon – Pick up time for students is from 3pm. Supervision is provided on the front lawn area of the school until 3.30 pm. If you are running late, please contact the office so emergency supervision can be organised for your child.

- **Playground Working Bees this Saturday 18th 9.30 -12.30 pm**

If your family could find some time this Saturday morning for a couple of hours it would be greatly appreciated. Many hands make light work, and it is lovely for the children to know you are helping create a lovely play space for them to use. You don't need to come with any particular skills, a willingness to lend your hand to some projects is all that is needed. See below for the things we have planned to work on.

Class 1/2/3 Play Area

We are welcoming willing hands and creative minds to help finish the water course. We plan is to place rocks and timber around the edges of the water stream so it is ready for use! There is also pine bark to spread to soften landings under the swings, the oak tree, and the monkey bars. And some installation of fence posts to help fence off the culvert area.

Class 4/5/6 Play Area and Playgroup watercourse/sandpit

We have some exciting installations to make in the 4/5/6 play space with a swing set hole's needing some preparation before securing the swings. We would love some strong and able bodies for digging the holes for the monkey bar poles as well!

Those of you that love to tidy and revamp – we have a lovely big sandpit and water course in this space that is to be used for both 4/5/6 play and Playgroup. It needs some TLC with weeding the sand areas and cleaning out the water course.

Primary School Curriculum Information

In addition to our rich main lesson curriculum and class teacher lead learning activities we will also be running the following specialist subjects:

Indonesian

This year the students will receive two Indonesian lessons per week. After reviewing our curriculum last year we have decided to increase our commitment to students developing their Indonesian language skills. Two lessons a week will allow for more progress and retention of the language.

Strings program

Our strings program started last year for Classes 3- 6 with violin lessons. This will continue this year, with the exciting additional option of cello for students in Class 4 -6. In addition to our class strings lesson, we will also be running an ensemble group with the 4/5/6 students on Friday afternoons.

Denni, our strings teacher, will put together some information for families considering cello. The school does not have these for hire but can provide information on hire and purchase options.

Gardening

Classes will have afternoon gardening lessons once a week. This will be facilitated by class teachers; however, we would also encourage parents who have skills and interests in gardening and outdoor projects to come and work with the classes at certain times. Class teachers will communicate these opportunities as they arise throughout the year.

Gardening Volunteer

We are looking for some volunteers to assist with gardening at the St Leonards campus. Please head to our website to read the position description. If it sounds like something you're interested in, or if you can offer an aspect of it rather than the 'whole package', please email your CV through to admin@tamarvalleysteiner.tas.edu.au

It need not be a long term commitment - it can just be term by term if that is what suits you.

Calendar Dates 2023

2023 Term Dates:

Term 1:

18th February: Working Bee at St Leonards 9:30am to 12:30pm

20th February - 22nd February - Class 6 Cradle Mountain Camp

Thursday 2nd March - Class 1/2/3 Parent Evening with shared meal

15th, 16th, 17th March - NAPLAN for Classes 3 and 5

Thursday 16th March - Kinder/ Prep Parent Meeting

22nd March - 24th March - Class 6 Hobart Camp

27th March - Parent Evening for 3/4/5/6

Guest Speaker Melanie Deefholts on Child Development

29th March - School Photo Week

5th April - Autumn Festival

6th April - End of Term

Term 2:

26th April - Students Return

30th June - End of term

Term 3:

25th July - Students Return

29th September - End of Term

Term 4:

16th October - Students Return

14th December - End of Term



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