



COMING EVENTS

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

Saturday 11 October	Robotics Tournament 10-3
Tuesday 14 October	Class 2 Parent Meeting 7pm
Thursday 16 October	'Behind Their Screens' parent talk on Social Media, 7pm
16-17 October	Class 3 Camp
Friday 17 October	Class 1 Lunch Bar
20-24 October	Class 9 Camp
Tuesday 21 October	Rawlins Family Travel Presentation 6.30-7.30pm
Tuesday 21 October	Class 4 Parent Meeting 7.30
Monday 27 October	LABOUR DAY

Kia ora koutou,

Welcome back everyone - we hope you all had a wonderful and refreshing break! It's been lovely seeing our students return full of energy and excitement for the term ahead.



This week marked the start of our school camp season for the term. Class 5 have just arrived back from their Olympic Camp in Ngaruawahia, which was a huge success filled with fun, teamwork, and memorable moments. Next week, Class 3 will be heading off on their own outdoor adventure - we can't wait to hear all about it when they return!

Last term, we shared the news that Luis will sadly be leaving us at the end of the year. Since then, we have been in the process of finding the right person to continue his wonderful work in the Outdoor Classroom. We are very happy to announce that **Kirsten Anderson** will be joining us next term as our **new Lower School Outdoor Classroom teacher**.

Kirsten is an experienced teacher whose two daughters both graduated from Michael Park School. She brings with her a deep passion for outdoor craft, gardening, and is also an acclaimed ceramics artist. This week, Kirsten has joined us and will be working alongside Luis **every Thursday and Friday for the remainder of the term**, providing her with the opportunity to get to know our students and wider community. Please keep an eye out for her and don't hesitate to say a warm hello!

We have also identified our class teachers for next year, which

are listed below for your reference.

Wishing everyone a wonderful weekend and a smooth start to the new term.

Ngā manaakitanga,
Desmond Pemerika - Tumuaki

2025 CLASS TEACHERS & KAITIAKI

o C1 Jill Dixon	o C7 Marco Liguori
o C2 Brooke Arps	o C8 Aliona Valyashko
o C3 Janette Feenstra	o C9 Gabrielle Reid
o C4 Maria Moston	o C10 Emma Robertson
o C5 Lucy Espeche	o C11 Ciaran Overton
o C6 Briar Gibson	o C12 Aurelia Zatta

ROBOTICS AT MPS



Tomorrow, MPS is hosting an Auckland Schools Robotics tournament in the gym, 10am-3pm.

Come and see the Michael Park School robotics team in action and find out more about the IQ and Vex school robotics groups.

CRAFT WEEK NEEDS A FOODIE & MORE!

Attention MPS whānau - we are desperately looking for an eager foodie to run the cooking workshop for High School Craft Week, happening from Thursday 4 Dec. to Thursday 11 Dec.

This is a paid commitment that requires an enthusiastic food lover and basic cook to teach our high school students the basics of cooking, and to coordinate volunteers in our community eager to come and share their time with our students. Craft week happens only during school hours on week days. Give me a call if you're interested and I can expand on an email.

Also, if you or anyone you know are a jeweller, wood practitioner, film photographer, bronze artist, basket maker, or any of the sort, and are interested in running a workshop, please reach out.



Thanks a lot.

Luis Bernal - 022 354 7902

luisb@michaelpark.school.nz

FAIR UPDATE - 29 DAYS TO GO

Fair coordinators meeting 22nd October, 6pm in the staff room

- Advertising - can you help deliver the Fair flyers in your local area? Please collect flyers from reception and tell us which streets you can deliver to.
- Pre-loved clothing bin is now out in front of auditorium. Please make sure clothing is washed before placing in the clothing bin. Last day for clothes will be 29th October.
- If you have any shopping bags we can use, please drop to reception.
- Please make sure you have put your name on your class roster, we need all parents to help out - your class coordinators need your FULL support!
- Fair Shirts - please see at end of Flyer of how to order your new Fair Shirt. A huge thankyou to our two art teachers, Aurelia Zatta and Emma Roberston for the design.



Any questions, please contact fairadmin@michaelpark.school.nz

ADOPT-A-BALE FOR THE SCHOOL FAIR!

Add to the rustic charm and some rustic seating for the Fair! For the great price of \$24 from the great team at Auckland Pea Straw, you can adopt a bale (~270L or 10m2 coverage) of Pea Straw. After the fair, take your nitrogen rich bale home to mulch up your garden for summer! Adopt your bale today and let all your green thumb friends and relatives know!



Email christianh@michaelpark.school.nz before the 24th Oct to book yours!

CAKE STALL

Every year, each family makes 2 cakes and 1 additional item (meringues, cookies, fudge, homegrown produce) for the cake stall at the fair.

We will continue to use the cardboard boxes to display the cakes. Packaging supplies will go out to families between 20th and 24th October.

BEST IN SHOW - Prizes are back, so get inspired and create your dream cake to win - best in show, most creative, etc.

**there is also a prize for cakes made by adults!*

TIPS -

- Get baking in the holidays - choose items that can be frozen.
- Specialty cakes always sell well (Christmas cakes, gluten free, etc).
- Make your cakes look pretty! If you are looking for inspiration, there are many wonderful sites on the internet.

Happy Baking!



RAFFLE PRIZE CALL-OUT 🎟️ 🎟️ 🎟️

This year, our fair raffle is looking a little different...

Alongside our much-loved **raffle baskets (sold on the day)**, we're also running a **Big Raffle** with **standout prizes** that will be **sold in advance** - and we'd love your help!

Our two themes are:

🌀 **Backyard Bonanza** - think outdoor furniture, deck umbrellas, hammocks, planter boxes, a firepit!

🏠 **Stacycation** - one-off activities, experiences, tours or shopping that showcase our fantastic city.

We'll gratefully accept **any raffle donations** to help build our beautiful baskets - and if you or someone you know has contacts for those bigger hero prizes, we'd love to hear from you! Please email reneecoulter@gmail.com

PERFORM AT THE FAIR!

Are you looking for a performance opportunity? Please sign up to perform on the big stage at the school fair!

Please fill in the form below and return to Amanda Lawrence or Curtis Davies by Friday, 24 October.

[Fair-performance-sign-up-sheet-2025.pdf](#)



Rerenga kōrero o te wiki

I pēhea te rā?
How was your day?

ROOM AND LUNCH BAR BOOKINGS



Dana in the school office is now looking after all room bookings during and after school hours, including lunch bar bookings. Please contact danam@michaelpark.school.nz with any requests.

Special Character Articles

A place to share information to deepen our understanding of our Special Character as a Steiner school

Food for Thought from the RSST

Opinion piece: On special character

By Sara Mole, RSST Co-Chair

At the RSST, we often reflect on definitions of 'special character', and it is tempting to try to reach for a list of things that we expect should be done or experienced by each class in order for them to receive what we perceive to be a Steiner Education. However, over time, I have come to understand that performing a specific task in a particular class is not really what this education is all about.

During the school holidays, I read an article by Martyn Rawson, one of the editors of the 'Yellow Book', titled 'The Educational Tasks and Content of the Steiner Waldorf Curriculum'.

<https://www.waldorf-resources.org/en/single-view/waldorf-education-a-continuous-cycle-of-renewal>

This resonated with me, and I'll try to summarise some of the points for you here.

"The Waldorf curriculum ...provides children and young people with learning contexts in which they can form and shape themselves, school their abilities, cultivate their feelings, define and re-define their relationship to the world and others and above all, to develop new ideas."

Martyn goes on to explain that the quality of the Waldorf experience draws on the knowledge of teachers observing, studying and reflecting on the pupils; their teaching practice;

and the context that we find ourselves in - in time and place. This knowledge interacts with our understanding of the insights into human development given to us by Rudolf Steiner.

Among other points, the article makes a series of suggestions as to how teaching supports learning and development that include

- Learning is understandable, manageable and meaningful
- Learning is artistic, aesthetic and interdisciplinary
- Students learn in and through the world by first recognising the physical or phenomenon and later the meaning or process
- There is a balance in craft, artistic work, projects and academics
- Providing rich informal learning for life in life

Reflecting on these ideas in the context of Michael Park School in 2025, I believe we can continue to value cherished traditions and rituals while also allowing for growth, creativity, and curriculum development that respond to our changing world. To me, as a parent, my main concern is whether our teachers deeply connect with this philosophy so that they can draw on it daily in their observations of and responses to our students. How well supported are they to nurture this knowledge and respond adaptively to the developmental challenges that our students face today? And yes, can we as parents see these core principles reflected in student learning and in the community, even if that looks a little different over the years?



My personal view is that our role as parents is to educate ourselves, to reflect these ideals in our parenting and to ask our teachers to help us understand how their lessons are designed and adapted to respond to their students' needs. This reflective cycle of communication and co-learning on the part of parents and teachers may require our time and commitment, but it is a key element of 'special character' that we all have agency over.

Do you have thoughts or readings to share on special character Steiner education? Feel free to get in touch with us at RSST@michaelpark.school.nz

Main Lessons

CLASS 4 HUMAN & ANIMAL

Class 4 has embarked on a second journey researching their favourite animals and creating amazing projects around them. Alongside the written report, they were requested to include a creative response to their work. Here are some of the results.



2026 TERM DATES

Any changes will be published in the Friday Flyer.

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

TERM 1, 2026

Monday, 2 February - Thursday, 2 April 2026

Waitangi Day - Friday, 6 February

Teacher Only Day - Monday, 16 March

Good Friday - Friday, 3 April

TERM 2, 2026

Monday, 20 April - Friday, 3 July 2026

ANZAC Day - Monday, 27 April

King's Birthday - Monday, 1 June

** Matariki is during school holidays - Friday, 10th July **

TERM 3, 2026

Monday, 20 July - Friday, 25 September 2026

Mid-Term Break TBC - either Friday 21 or 28 August

TERM 4, 2026

Monday, 12 October - Wednesday, 16 December 2026

Labour Day - Monday, 26 October

Fair Day - Saturday 7 November

Mid-Term Break - Friday, 13 November



WHAT'S IT LIKE TO TRAVEL THE WORLD WITH KIDS?

A presentation for parents

By Ella Ewens MPH(Hons), BOptom(Hons) and Family

We travelled for one year with our two kids (aged 8 and 10), through 26 countries, on a budget, with only a small 7kg backpack each, while working and schooling on the road. It was the most **extraordinary** and **challenging** year of our lives.



In this presentation we will cover what we did, where we went, and what we learned, laughed and cried about along the way.

Tuesday, 21 October

6:30 – 7:30pm

Michael Park School Auditorium and on Zoom

[Click here for Zoom link](#)

Free

Contact: ella.ewens@gmail.com

**CHESS IS
BACK** at
MICHAEL PARK SCHOOL!

TERM 4 COACHING PROGRAM

Let your child unlock
their brilliance with

CHESS!

WHY JOIN?

- ✓ Boost focus, confidence & creativity
- ✓ Learn fair play, strategy & smart decision-making
- ✓ Play online safely - and for FREE!
- ✓ Make friends & get rewarded

Fun, brain-boosting
lessons, perfect for
ALL skill levels.

CLASS TIMES
Fridays
1.30 - 2.30pm
in the Library



**Just
\$151**



STARTS 10 OCT
REGISTER
TODAY!



Questions?

Visit:
chesspower.co.nz
Click Parents Centre



FREE & ONLINE
DISCOVER THE HEART OF WALDORF
EDUCATION LECTURE SERIES

**THE RSST presents this exciting opportunity for our
Whānau**

INTERNATIONAL WALDORF LECTURE SERIES

Hosted by the International Campus Waldorf
Free Online Lecture Series for Waldorf Parents,
Whānau & Educators



September 30 – December 9, 2025,
Live every Tuesday | 5:30–7:00 AM NZDT
(Recordings available for flexible viewing)

Why Join?

- Deepen your understanding of your child's education
- Hear from internationally respected Waldorf educators
- Connect with a global community of like-minded parents
- Attend live or watch later—your choice
- Entirely free



Register now at: www.international-campus-waldorf.com

Whether you're new to Waldorf or a long-time supporter, this series offers fresh insights and inspiration for your Waldorf journey.

Nga mihi nui - The RSST

BEHIND THEIR SCREENS

School
Fundraiser



A Presentation for Parents

by Dr Samantha Marsh

Thursday 16 October, 7-8.30pm

This presentation explores:

- How social media and smartphone tech are designed to capture attention
- Why these designs often clash with how children and teens develop
- The impact of digital use on young people's wellbeing
- Practical strategies to help families navigate the digital world with confidence.

For parents of primary, intermediate, and secondary students.

Thursday 16 October, 7-8.30pm

Michael Park School Auditorium, 55 Amy St, Ellerslie

\$10 per person

A 'Helping Hands' school fundraiser with all funds going towards the Michael Park School playground. Tickets available:

<https://www.eventfinda.co.nz/2025/behind-their-screens2/auckland/ellerslie>





Michael Park School Apparel - NEW SUMMER HATS!

We're introducing a range of quality school clothing featuring our school logo. You will have seen a number of our staff and students modelling these. This is a great opportunity for our tamariki and whānau to show pride in our amazing school community, stay warm through the cooler months, sun-safe in the summer months, and help preserve everyday clothes from wear and tear.

If you're interested, we have sample items available in the school office for sizing. Ordering is simple and can be done by following the attached flowchart. Website for ordering - <https://funto.co.nz/>

			
Hoodies Adult - \$69 Hoodies Kids - \$67.50 <small>OPTIONAL : Student name small print only inside the bottom part of the hoodie - \$5</small> <small>All prices are inclusive of GST.</small>	WOLL Wolly knit Beanie \$31 <small>All prices are inclusive of GST.</small>	Bondi bucket hat - \$18.50 <small>Size Small - 1 Med - 1 Large - 1</small> <small>All prices are inclusive of GST.</small>	CH1462 - Kids School Wide Brim Hat NAVY \$23 <small>Med XL</small> (this style comes in 2 sizes only) <small>All prices are inclusive of GST.</small>

For order assistance: Call: 027 5265321 email:sup@funto.co.nz

	Michael Park Hoodies & Beanies Online Ordering System	
---	--	---

Go to funto.co.nz	→	Click on ORDER UNIFORMS	→	Complete Registration *if first time to order.
Registration Account Type: Michael Park School then click Register	→	Log in to your account	→	You can see Michael Park School items
Place your order & payment.	→	You will receive email confirmation of orders	→	You will receive email notification once order has been couriered.

For order assistance: Call: 027 5265321 email:sup@funto.co.nz

FAIR T-SHIRTS ARE BACK!

On the 21st of October from 2pm till 3.30pm we will be selling these T-Shirts in the Auditorium Foyer.

If you can't make it, then please use order form below.



To place your order, please use the below form.

Children T-Shirt \$20.00

Adult T-Shirt \$25.00

T-SHIRT ORDER FORM

Name _____

CLASS _____

Please circle colour and size you are wanting to order:

Child

Colour: RED ROYAL BLUE IRISH GREEN GOLD PINK

Size: 4 6 8 10 12

Adult (Womens)

Colour: PINK ROYAL BLUE IRISH GREEN

Size: S M L XL 2XL

Adult (Mens)

Colour: ROYAL BLUE RED IRISH GREEN

Size: S M L XL 2XL

HOW TO PAY:

1. Place cash and order form in drop box at reception (*envelopes provided by drop box*)
2. Order in person through reception from 8.00am to 8.30am (Tuesday – Friday) Eftpos available. Start date 21st October.