

# Food for thought from the RSST

## Class Play Presentations – A philosophical perspective

*Written by Louise Davys, RSST member.*

At the end of last term, we had the pleasure of coming together as a community to see the Class 12 play. The bonds they have formed as a class over their many years together shone through, and were presented in an engaging, entertaining, and heartfelt production that was wonderful to watch.

In the Rudolf Steiner philosophy, class plays are an integral part of the curriculum. Plays are carefully chosen and sometimes adapted to suit the individual class, and this was clearly evident in Class 12's performance – "Brainstorm," which offered insight into what is happening in the teenage brain. It was a poignant reflection of where they are at developmentally, and a timely reminder for us as parents to remember what it was like to be their age, the challenges they face, and how the relationship between parents and teens can be strengthened through mutual understanding.

Here at Michael Park School, class plays are an important part of the high school curriculum and are performed in classes 8, 10 and 12.

Class play immersions give students the opportunity to become deeply engaged in a substantial arts project, and to experience meaningful moments of teamwork and collaboration. Through this experience, they learn to work cohesively together and navigate both the highs and lows of bringing a presentation to life.

Teachers and class parents alike witness the incredible transformation that occurs as students move through what can at times be a challenging, yet highly rewarding process. Steiner viewed class plays as an opportunity for students to develop confidence, resilience, and transform their way of being and seeing the world around them. Being able to acknowledge and share this together with the wider community is a rewarding experience for everyone involved.

While as a parent it is always special to watch your own child perform, I would also encourage you to come and support other classes also. It offers a glimpse into what lies ahead for younger students, and provides an opportunity to come together as a school whanau, celebrating each other's achievements, and strengthening the bonds between parents, students and teachers that are at the heart of our community.

Class 12 was the first of 3 high school classes to present their play this year.

## Upcoming High School play presentations are:

**Class 10 - 1st & 2nd July**

**Class 8 - 25th & 26th August**

We hope to see you there.

*Please feel free to contact the RSST to share your thoughts or comments. [rsst@michaelpark.school.nz](mailto:rsst@michaelpark.school.nz)*

