

Teacher's Report May 2020- AGM

Wow ... what a start to 2020 for all of us, we have only just got our school running after the holidays and suddenly we were in a lockdown due to the nationwide Covid 19 pandemic. But even before this remarkable situation we held several meetings, where we tried to discuss the future of our club and consequently school. You would have all read the letter inviting you to this AGM, and I just realised that for me it will be the seventh one. I have been involved with the Czech Club and School here in Tauranga since late 2013 – as a part of the committee as well as the teacher – I have organised or helped organised numerous events for our community.

I like teaching and spending time with the Czech community, but when I started, I was hoping to become a mum and have this all (the school & the Czech club events) available for my child. Now as clever my fur baby is ... Persimmon won't be attending the Czech School. Additionally, I have got few other interests and hobbies that do keep me busy, thus I would like to step back with some of my roles and responsibilities within the club. I am happy to continue teaching and assisting with some events that interest me – what I do not want to have to do, is to take part in organisation of every event as we are struggling to find other members of the committee or even volunteers. I must say this did become somehow tedious towards the end of 2019 and I believe that here I am talking for all of us.

Our school children are a delight to teach when they are in school. We appreciate that some times it is not possible to attend the Sunday school, but regular attendance does make it for an easier routine and better chance to cement the knowledge of Czech language. It is easier for me that we now have 3 teachers available to cover the Czech School lessons – we meet on a regular basis and plan the sessions. In the past school year we had 12 children enrolled in our school – age varying from 6 to 10 years old and on average each class was attended by 6 to 8 children. I want to thank Kacka F. and Aja H. for their hard work in the last school year – without them, the school year would not be possible as I have spent some time in the Czech Republic on a course for teachers of Czech language abroad. I have really enjoyed the opportunity to learn from others in the similar situation as well as share ideas and work on new teaching styles and ideas.

Last year we have successfully organised for example another Easter celebration, Burning Witches, Night with Andresen sleepover, several baking sessions and in March of 2020 we were visited by the Ranec Theatre. We were very lucky, that they were able to perform for us as the rest of their tour had to be cancelled due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

In 2020 we already seen certain events cancelled or postponed indefinitely (Multicultural Festival, Night with Andresen, Easter) and we could only imagine how the rest of the year will be shaping up. Many of us had our travel arrangements curtailed and number of our friends and relatives were stuck in the Covid 19 limbo. I am hoping that our 2020 AGM will bring a new burst of life to our fabulous club, I believe that there are people within our Czech and Slovak community who wish to continue with the traditions started in 2012 in the back of someone's garage ... we have grown and we are doing really well ... so let's keep the ball rolling.

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