



Te Aro School

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## Te Aro School Newsletter – 5 July 2024

### *News from the Principal's Desk*

**Tena tatou katoa e te whanau. Dobar dahn, Nabad, Hola, Ciao, Ni hao, Namaste, Talofa, Bonjour, Konnichiwa, Kia orana, Bula, Buon giorno, Guten Tag, Cześć, Salamu Aleykum, Hola, Ciao, Haye, Hallo, Merhaba, Akkam, Asalaam-walaikum , Selamat datang, Walang anuman**

In the last three weeks of this term, we have welcomed Florence and Manasvi to our school community. Florence has joined Serah and Eva in Rūma Tawa. Manasvi has joined Mathew and Tessa in Rūma Manuka.

This Friday we farewell Sheila who has been teaching in Rūma Tarata with Jonny. I am very thankful to Sheila for her hard work and commitment to the students in Rūma Tarata. I appreciate Sheila for working with Jonny to plan a programme for the students in this class.

Next term we welcome back Kristin to our staff team. Kristin has been on leave for that first two terms of this year.

This term the teachers have worked with two literacy experts - Murray Gadd and Jenni Dittmer. Jenni has been working with all the teaching team over a series of Thursday after school meetings. She has focussed the team on oral language and the strong link that 'writing flows on a sea of talk'. At the start of this week Murray worked with Ella, Esther and Eva. He looked closely at students' writing books and planned next teaching points for their students.

#### **HUGE Thanks**

Many thanks to Friends of Te Aro whanau for all their organising of our Matariki celebration on Thursday evening. It was without a doubt one of the best Matariki celebrations we have had.





Many thanks to Mathew, Hemi and Esther for supporting our kapa haka group. They gave a fine performance last night.



Ngā mihi nui Asher, Tessa and the Garden to Table crew from Rūma Manuka for prepping and serving such a delicious hangi.







Many many thanks too to Metro New World for donating the chicken and brisket for the hangi, the sausages for the sausage sizzle, all the milk for our hot chocolates and other grocery items. We are VERY grateful for their generous support of our school.

Ngā mihi nui to Noor's grandparents Manjit and Gheeta and Als who have been delivering fresh fruit and bread each week this term. Their weekly deliveries have made such a huge difference to so many of our students and their whanau. Manjit, Gheeta and Als are from Ekta NZ which is a not-for profit community-based charity. Ekta is the Hindi word for unity or oneness.

### Student highlights of this term

I interviewed students across the school about their highlights of this term. They shared with me these reflections:

*I have really liked Maths this term. I like too the letter and the maths songs we sing. I like playing on my scooter with Hamish at playtimes. I like it too if we do this with Archer and Elqui. – Will*

*I have been a good writer this term. Serah says that I have been working hard. I am proud of my writing. – Anais*

*I am really looking forward to Matariki this Thursday evening. I have liked doing Maths this term. I can plus and minus numbers. I think I have been doing some great writing. I wrote two pages about my swimming lessons when I changed class. – Elqui*

*I have enjoyed reading, writing and maths this term. I like all of this learning so much because it is fun. Serah and Eva tell me that I am doing great learning. – Fyyfe*

*I have worked hard this term with Bernice and I did great reading and writing with her. She said I was good at both reading and writing. I have also liked doing my Maths work. Do you know that I know that  $6 \times 7 = 42$ ? - Archer*

*I have liked reading and doing science experiments. I have started to read chapter books which I like to read at school and at home. – Kora*

*I have really enjoyed Maths this term. I am accurate in my Maths work and my work is usually correct. Maths makes my brain feel smart. Mum, Dad and Anna tell me I am amazing. I have also liked writing about what I have done in the weekends. – Aisha*

*I have liked working with Cathie and Quynh on a Tuesday afternoon this term as we got to have fun with them and we got to speak Vietnamese. I liked being able to talk about Vietnam with other children. I also liked all the writing I have done this term. I am proud of my writing. Anna told me my writing has got better this term. - Truong*

*I like going to First Language Time with Cathie and Quynh. I like that we play games and we talk Vietnamese. Quynh helps the younger children to come to the group as they have less English. - Nguyen*

*I have liked this term working on our pastel chalk artwork in so many different ways. We used pastels to create our birds. I worked on creating a silvereye. I blended colours. I blended brown, green and red in order to colour my silvereye's head. I hope all our families enjoy all our work when we exhibit it all in Term 3. – Genevieve*

*One of my big highlights of the term was working with the chalk pastels. It took a lot of time to make decisions about selecting the right colours to use. I discovered brown helped to make the green colour I was trying for just right. - Thea*

*I liked giving our speeches this term. My speech was about why we shouldn't do speeches! It was a lot easier giving my speech this year compared to last year when I gave my first speech. I think I used good gestures as I spoke and that my voice was clear and had good volume. My advice to people about their speech is to give it your best shot and don't be afraid to actually give it. – Annie*

*Giving my first speech was terrifying but once I started speaking it was less scary. I am proud of myself for writing my speech and then giving it. I had very clear reasons why plastic and packaging should be banned. – Isabella*

*This term I have really enjoyed learning about bees and Garden to Table. I like working around the hives. I like watching the bees and when a bee lands on your suit. I find it so calming working with the bees and being around the smoker. – Rose B*

*I have really enjoyed speeches this term. I overcame my fear of public speaking. I learnt that to overcome my speech I had to go straight at it and actually do my speech. I spoke about my passion for karate. I am looking forward to swimming next term and doing more art for the art exhibition. – Sofia*

### **Staff highlights of this term**

I asked staff to share with me their highlights of this term. They shared the following with me:

*A highlight for me this term has been watching the kids work so hard on their speeches. They have shown such persistence by going through the process of drafting, editing and practising their speeches. Without a doubt, the highlight of the whole process is seeing so many of them conquering their fears and presenting their speeches to the class. The look of pride (and relief!) is wonderful to see. I couldn't be more proud of all of them! I have really enjoyed our Māori lessons this term. The class has been learning about how to use simple sentences using time markers - "ka" "kei te" and "i" - to tell each other when things have happened. We are in the process of writing some short books about the staff at school using our new Māori knowledge. – Tessa*

*It has been a great term but a highlight was cross country. Many of the Tawa students were so excited about training for the run up on the turf in the lead up to the event. They wanted to push themselves and try to run a little bit further every day. We trained with students from Mānuka at tuakana teina time which made it extra fun and meant the older students could teach those from Tawa how to pace themselves and keep up a positive attitude. The Tawa whānau did so well on the day - they cheered each other on and were really proud of themselves, and I was really proud of them too! - Eva*

*A personal favourite was definitely Rūmaki Reo. It was great to challenge myself in my kōrero mo te reo Māori, and it was ataahua to see the tamariki really trying their best and challenging themselves as well. It was so awesome to have our Wellington Central MP here, too! Other highlights would have to include Sione, Cumber and Angelos from Pōhutukawa teaching a Samoan sasa to Rūma Kauri, and the House of Science kits. The seniors were wonderful kaiako and Rūma Kauri loved learning the actions in a sasa. We enjoyed it so much that we often practice it in our class. The House of Science kits were particularly interesting this term. Big shout out to the fireworks and electricity ones where we got to be real scientists and carry out hands-on experiments! - Ella*

*First language time with our wonderful Vietnamese students - so brilliant to have Quynh's bilingual support which has enabled our newest Vietnamese students to take active leadership roles within this programme. Seeing the pride of the senior students I worked with as they presented their speeches so well in front of their class. - Cathie*

*For me the highlights are the 6-year net results but most especially hearing how our neurodiverse and our super shy students did so well with their speeches. It is such a huge confidence boost for them and makes all the extra adult time spent talking with, listening to, and generally building their confidence so worthwhile. I guess it doesn't show on the testing as suggested by our present leaders in government but it's what keeps me getting up and going to school! - Bernice*

### **Visiting Village at the Park**

On Tuesday 25 June our Year 5 & 6 kapa haka students performed at Village on the Park in Berhampore. We were invited to help the residents at Village in the Park celebrate Matariki. A group of children from the childcare centre next door also came to watch our students perform.



*Kapa Haka photos courtesy of Julia Brooke-White.*



*I thought our performance was good as everyone tried their best. I think performances like this are so much fun. I think the audience was very happy with what we performed. We followed Mathew's advice that if we made a mistake, we should roll with it as a group and carry on! I felt good doing something for another community – Kamsi*



*I felt quite nervous both just performing and during the performance. Mathew suggested if we felt nervous, we should scrunch up our toes on the carpet so we might feel the carpet under our feet and the feel calm so that we could focus on the actual performance. I think the Village in the Park residents and the children all enjoyed our performance. – Ni Lar*

*It was quite scary having a solo in kapa haka. It was also quite good to have something to focus on. Mum and Dad said they were proud of me, and they said I was on point. They also said they liked our haka. I like our visits to Village on the Park. It was great to perform there. - Georgie*

### **House of Science kits**

*Recently with Tessa we prepared traps to catch moths up on Demos Hill. We were keen to catch moths to protect our fruit trees. We hung up the traps that we made in our fruit trees. We put a sticky surface inside each trap which had a small disc. The disc released a pheromone. The pheromone attracts the moths to the trap. We have to keep checking the traps as the pheromone lasts for six weeks. We place traps in our apple, pear and avocado trees. We really like doing practical science investigations that connect to our Garden to Table work. – Daniela, Kala, Ruby and Lila*

### **Te Reo and Te Ao Māori**

Some of our Māori students shared with me their thoughts about learning te reo Māori, Matauranga Māori and participating in kapa haka.

*Kapa haka makes me relaxed. I like how I get to stretch in kapa haka. - Constance*

*I like learning te reo Māori because it is a special language. I like how I'm part of that special language . – Kaha*

*I quite like kapa haka. I really like it when my brother does kapa haka performances. I think we have good Māori celebrations – you know like Matariki. – Lula*

*I like kapa haka and learning Māori. I think the school should keep doing this. Kapa haka is good for you. - Jahqwan*

*I take part in kapa haka. The school does a good job supporting te reo Māori. I am always excited about our rūmaki reo mornings. – Cassius*

*This school really values te reo and all things Māori. We have rūmaki reo, wero challenges, Māori language month which is not just a week, and actual te reo Māori lessons (a real subject). – Selva*

*I think our school does value things that are Māori. We learn Māori language. We have a reo challenge. We do kapa haka. We have signage around the school in Māori. – Residence*



*I think Te Aro does care about us learning about Māori culture. We have kapa haka, we have te reo Māori lessons in our classes, and we do Māori performances. – Lara*

*I think that as a school we are definitely good at celebrating things that are Māori. We hold rūmaki reo sessions, we have a kapa haka group, we play games in Māori, we have a weekly wero language challenge. It really is OK to be Māori at this school. – Pia*

*I love being part of kapa haka. I think it is way cooler when we perform rather than when we are practicing. I think at Te Aro we value te Ao Māori as we have a wero/challenge and we do lots of Māori art. Our teachers and the principal speak te reo Māori. – Skye*

With this being the last week of term, I wish you all a restful break over the holidays. I am really looking forward to having both my daughters at home at the same time. Jessie is coming over from Melbourne to farewell Ailsa and Emily who are returning to live in the USA. Ailsa has accepted a job at the University of Cincinnati.

I am looking forward to Term 3 especially as we will be celebrating the visual arts with our **school art exhibition on Thursday 19 September** (week 9 of the term). I love how events such as Matariki and our arts exhibition bring our school community together.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or queries that you have about the school or feedback which you would like to share with me.

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou,

Sue



The year 5 to 8 students have been working on speeches. Here are three wonderful examples.

## Why You Should Spend Time Doing Art

*by Emme Do, Year 7*

Imagine yourself in an empty, quiet world and everything looks like it's in black and white. Today I am here to tell you why you should spend time doing art. Art can improve your imagination, you can learn new skills and lastly it helps you stay calm and relaxed.



My first reason is that art can improve your imagination. How? You may ask. Art gives you a feeling that helps your brain make ideas. The more you do art the more ideas you'll have. Art also helps us in math by making us better at measuring because it helps you get an understanding of how shapes and patterns fit together. Doing art could develop a new perspective around you and your work. A new perspective means you'll have more ideas and you'll be able to complete your work more easily. Having a creative mind can improve positive emotions and let out your negative ones.

Secondly you can learn new skills. Art develops a lot of skills like risk taking, visual learning, self expression, confidence and a whole lot more. Art gives you memories from your body that brings new ideas and old ideas. Learning new skills means that you will be able to learn how to make new things and creations. Pablo Picasso once said painting is just another way of keeping a diary.

Art involves using different tools and materials, which help us develop fine motor skills. Thinking of an idea and making it into a finished artwork requires risk-taking, examining options and working toward solutions. These are great problem-solving skills that we can learn by getting involved in art projects.

Lastly, art can help you stay calm and relaxed. Art helps relieve anxiety. It has been shown that art lowers blood pressure and decreases your heart rate. Art is a way to express and release your emotions and take your mind off all the stress and then provides a relaxing distraction such as painting, drawing or sculpting. Art is a cheap version of therapy. Many studies have shown that art can support mental health and help reduce stress. People like to do art as a hobby because it makes them feel happy and relaxed.

In conclusion: I have told you my three reasons why art is an important and useful activity. It can improve your imagination, you can learn new skills and it can help you stay calm and relaxed. I believe that if you spend time doing art instead of sitting around doing nothing or spending too much time on your device you will definitely see and feel the benefits!



# Why Children Should Learn More Than One Language

*by Alimar Al Asaad, Year 8*

Hello, as-salaam-alaikum, xin chao, bonjour, hola, nihao, salam, talofa lava, namaste, konnichiwa, kia ora. I believe that children should learn more than one language. Why? Because it is good for their brains, it means you can help new students and if you go to another country you might know the language there.

Firstly, learning another language is good for your brain because it can help your brain to work more. It might make you confident to learn another language later on. Also scientists have found out that people who learn more than one language are better at listening and can pay attention for longer. If you learn another language you will be able to read books in that language. It will help to improve your vocabulary.



Secondly if you learn another language you can help new students. If any new students come to Te Aro and don't know English you can translate for them if you know their language. Also this can be helpful for the teachers because they might not know the language that the student speaks.

There are lots of people at our school who have helped new kids by translating for them. If you can do this, it's a good way to get to know new people and they might become your friend. For example when Mona and Hana were here from Egypt they spoke Arabic so I helped them to understand English and to communicate with teachers so that is how we became friends. Lastly, if you go to another country you might know the language there. If you know the language there you can communicate with other people. It will make you have a greater understanding of other cultures. If you learn more than one language you will be more confident to go to any places you want.

I hope that you have learned something from my speech. I have told you that learning more than one language is good for students' brains, helps new students and it is also useful if you go to another country because you might know the language there.

Shukran, ngā mihi, cam on, Xiexie, thank you for listening to my speech.

# Why It's Important for Me to Understand my Language and Culture

by Marina Solaqa, Year 8

Have you ever wanted to learn and know the language your parents speak? Well I have, so this is why I am going to tell you why it is important for me to learn my language and understand my culture! My reasons are: Number 1, My family's language is old and special, reason number 2, by learning it I can connect with my family, and lastly in the future I will be able to teach other people, to help stop our language dying.

I was born in Syria but my family actually comes from Iraq. We are Assyrian, (which is different from Syrian) and our culture and language is very, very old. My grandparents and parents lived in a city called Baghdad in Iraq. We had to leave because the war started to become bad and my parents wanted to leave because they knew it wouldn't be a good country for me and my siblings to grow up in, after that we came to NZ when I was just 2 years old!

My first reason for why it's important for me to know my language and culture is that even though it's a pretty hard language to learn, trust me it's worth it! It is a very old and very special language. Imagine if someone came up to me and asked what language I speak and I like 'Assyrian' And they ask what language is that?

Then I'll be able to tell them about my language and culture. It's also a very special language because not a lot of people speak it. People that speak Assyrian are spread all around the world now and there's still not a lot of them so you'll rarely meet people that speak Assyrian. Maybe in the future I would want to go back to visit the places my family is from in the Middle East and if I can speak Assyrian then I'll know what everyone else is saying.



Secondly, by being interested in my language and culture I am connecting with my family! I'll show you how, in my religion, we celebrate Christmas, the day Jesus Christ was born, so we go to a special celebration at church to acknowledge his birth by praying and at the end we sometimes have food. We pray for 2 hours since it's a special occasion.

For Easter we do the same thing, sort of. We also have 2 hours of church and at the end there's eggs because it's Easter! Being a part of these special occasions helps me connect with my family and the Assyrian community. My church's youth group has a special meeting every 2 weeks about activities we should do, and that helps me connect with them, and learn my culture.

And lastly Assyrians speak one of the oldest spoken and written languages in the world, so that's why it's important for me to stop it from dying and going extinct. In the future maybe I'll have kids or I'll be an auntie to my siblings' kids, so then I can teach the next generation of my family so they can know their language and speak it at home and become one of between 3 and 5 million people around the world who speak Assyrian.

In conclusion, I have told you about all my reasons why knowing my family's language and culture is important to me. Number 1, it is a very old and special language. Number 2, I can connect with my family and the Assyrian community, and lastly I can teach other people before it goes extinct.

Thanks for listening to me.





## School Notices

### Protect against measles

Just a reminder to be vigilant in the face of an increased risk of measles around the motu. Remember the best protection against measles is two doses of the MMR vaccine.

[Find out if you need a measles vaccination – Te Whatu Ora](#)

Te Whatu Ora has more information on measles on its website:

[Measles – Te Whatu Ora](#)

## Term Dates 2024

### Term 2 2024

Monday 29 April – Friday 5 July

*Teacher Only Day – Friday 31 May*

*King's Birthday – Monday 3 June*

*Matariki – Friday 28 June*

### Term 3 2024

Monday 22 July – Friday 27 September

### Term 4 2024

Monday 14 October – Tuesday 17 December

*Teacher Only Day – Friday 25 October*

*Labour Day – Monday 28 October*