



Te Aro School

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Te Aro School Newsletter – 16 August 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

A warm welcome to Sanuli, Ranugi and Gaspar who have recently joined our school community. Ranugi and Gaspar have joined Serah and Eva in Rūma Tawa. Sanuli has joined Kristin and Jonny in Rūma Tarata.

It has been great to have some of our scaffolding dismantled and the big skip emptied. The final work on the north facing windows is coming to an end.

I enjoyed on Thursday morning meeting with a small group of parents who popped in for a coffee. It was great to answer some of our new parents' questions about the New Zealand education system and how we do things here at Te Aro School. Google Translate is an amazing app!

Visiting classes this week I can see that across the school classes are working on preparing amazing pieces of artwork for our September art exhibition on Thursday 19 September 5.00pm – 7.00pm. I hope you have this date in your diary as it is such a wonderful school event.

Serah and Eva have decided to remain in the classroom they moved into when our main block window work began. They continue to call their class Rūma Tawa. Students across the school are in the process of renaming their old classroom which will become our new multipurpose space. This room will be where we can gather together for whanau hui and whole school assemblies. On Thursday of this week students began voting on possible names for this rūma. They could vote for Rimu, Ngaio, Matai, Kahikatea, Miro, Koromiko, Pūriri and Puka. Several of these trees were once names of classroom spaces we once had in our old north and in south block which was down on the lower playground.

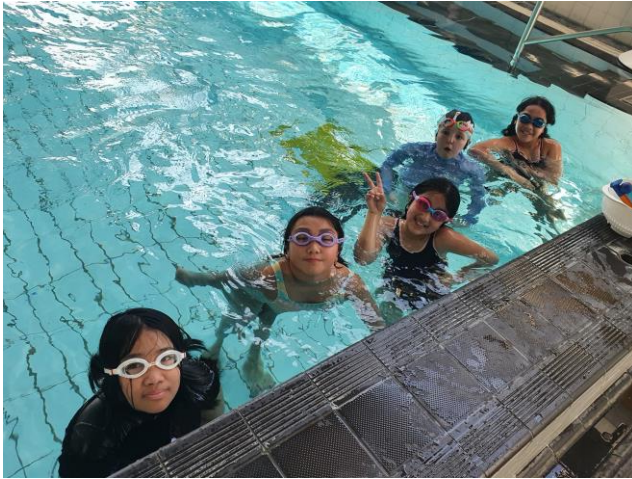


I have, over the past fortnight, been trying to keep abreast of all the Government's announcements with regards to the refreshed New Zealand curriculum. Earlier in the week the Government shared with principals and the Ministry of Education the draft Maths' curriculum which will come into effect at the start of 2025. I await the Government's announcements about how the Ministry will support schools with professional learning and development. Professional learning and development for our teachers will be key to the success of rolling out this new curriculum.

Swimming at the Aquatic Centre

Our senior classes continue to enjoy their weekly swimming and water safety lessons at the Aquatic Centre in Kilbirnie. I joined Rūma Manukau at the pool on Monday afternoon. It was really great to see the students participating in the water safety lessons.

Last week we focussed on water safety in the waves. We learnt about diving under waves and getting the sinky seals off the bottom of the pool. It's good to learn to be safe in the ocean. – Navya



Last week we learnt about what to do if we were stuck out in the sea and how as a group we could stay warm and be safe together. We were all wearing life jackets and we made a snake by joining up and holding the person in front of us by their life jacket. I have been enjoying our lessons so much. – Daniela



Speeches in the Senior School

Last week our Year 5 – 8 senior school speech finals were held. Esther and Eva had the big job of being this year's judges. I am really looking forward to attending the central Wellington schools' speech competition on Tuesday 27 August at Mt Cook School when we will be represented by Kamsi, Esther, JJ and Oscar. We are certain that they will all do well in representing our school.

We really enjoyed judging the Te Hokioi speeches alongside Tess on Friday morning. It was amazing to see the high level of research, passion and dedication that had gone into all of the speeches we saw. It isn't easy getting up and performing in front of so many others, but all the students did an excellent job and should be extremely proud of themselves. We loved how varied and creative the topics were - we definitely learned some facts we didn't know about reading, the science of sleep, universities, Kendrick Lamar and more.

It was challenging choosing just one student from each year level to represent Te Aro School at the interschool speech competition in week 6, but we are confident that Oscar Sweetman, JJ (Juliet) Street, Esther Bartlett and Kamsi Bona will do an incredible job. We chose these students based on how well they engaged the audience and the consideration, practice and effort they had clearly put into their speeches. A big congratulations from us to all of the students who took part; thank you for letting us come and judge! - Eva and Esther



I did a speech about why cars should stop for pedestrians to cross the road. I get so annoyed at having to wait for ages as cars just don't stop. Having to wait for ages can mean you run late for things. I like how in writing and then giving a speech you are able to express yourself. I like how you don't necessarily have to be polite about what you think! It's good to be able to share your opinions and thoughts. It was a little nerve wracking giving my speech. I thought to myself well whatever happens I will be fine. If I don't make it any further that's OK too. – Alexandra

I spoke about why there should be more technology in primary schools. The judges said I spoke very clearly and that my speech was well written. It felt very tense and nerve wracking as I began my speech. I told myself that I would be OK once I had given my speech. My Mum and dad were proud of me becoming a finalist. Now I need to keep practising before the competition on Tuesday 26 August. I'll be representing our school as the Year 5 finalist. – Kamsi

My speech was why we should go to bed by 8.30pm. The judges said I backed up my speech well as I had done some thorough research. They said they could hear me and that I spoke at a good pace. I'm not sure how the competition will go. I have really liked writing and practising my speech. I was proud that all the work I did paid off. – JJ

I spoke about why Kendrick Lamar is better than Drake. I felt that people enjoyed my speech as I got a lot of applause. The judges suggested that I could possibly move around a little bit more. I was extremely excited while waiting for the judges' decisions. I will need to keep practising my speech between now and the competition evening. – Oscar

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



Here is the speech from Kamsi, one of our speech finalists who will represent us at the upcoming speech competition at Mt Cook School.

The Impact of Tech on Primary School Kids

Hi, my name is Kamsi and today I am here to prove to you how technology helps primary schools and why there should be more. My 3 main reasons that you will see somewhere in my speech are: It can help people with disabilities, it can help people develop new skills and it makes way more learning opportunities.

My first point is that technology helps kids with learning disabilities by enabling them to use talk to text. For example, if they struggle with spelling, they will be able to do their work just as quickly as kids who don't have disabilities. It also means that they can hopefully not become as stressed out about their disability because they won't feel as disadvantaged. Another example is for students who learn better with pictures and diagrams. Technology makes it much easier for them to find and understand information as people no longer have to draw them like in the past.

My second reason is that technology can help people develop new skills because it allows them to look at a wide range of things. Perhaps people would not have otherwise known about these things but with technology they are able to discover new passions and hobbies. It helps people find their potential. For example, if you don't know how fast you can run, there are watches that track your steps and speeds which means you get an accurate picture of your abilities.

Lastly it makes way more learning opportunities. The whole world is moving towards more and more technology. I think kids in all primary schools should be given the opportunity to work with and use technology. There are probably lots of kids that do not have technology at home and may have never used it before. Which means school is when they are most likely to be able to use it and learn about it. Also primary schools that choose to not use technology much may be limiting children's success because they will have to shift to using technology in highschool.

In conclusion I think that technology should be used in primary schools because it has a positive impact on children's learning and lives. If you can remember the three main points of my speech: more learning opportunities, developing new skills and helping kids with disabilities. I am 100% sure that you will agree with me that technology has a huge impact on primary students. Now is our chance to ask our principal and teachers for all the technology we can dream up!

By Kamsi Bona, year 5

Ruma Tarata have been doing some wonderful writing about Maori legends. Here are two examples of their work.

The Legend of Hine-nui-te-pō

By Lula Hyland-Dixon, Ruma Tarata

My favourite part of how Maui defied the goddess of death is when Hine nui te pō awoke. And my other one was when the centipede gets covered with purple paint.



The Legend of Hine-nui-te-pō

By Astra Naing, Ruma Tarata



My favourite part is the goddess of death when Maui got in the body and then she was so mad because the bird was making a lot of noise. The woman was also uncomfortable. Her eyes were red. Her hair was flying and Maui was never seen again.

Ruma Nikau have been working on poetry.

Here is a great one by Thea Knox.

I am Thea

I am a very dedicated actress.

I play hard to help keep my scene together.

I love bowing at the end of the play.

I try hard to stay in character all the time.

I am afraid I might forget my lines or trip while dancing.

I am happy with how I've done after the play.

I am nervous before I go on stage.

I am excited before I go on stage.

I am Thea.



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.

Measles – what you need to know

Not enough New Zealanders are immunised against measles, which means there is a very high risk of an outbreak.

- The best protection against measles is two doses of the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine – free for all young people aged 18 and under in New Zealand and all adults over the age of 18 who are eligible for free New Zealand healthcare.
- The first symptoms of measles are fever, cough, runny nose and sore red eyes, followed by a red or dark pink rash typically starting on the face or behind the ears three days after the first symptoms before moving down the body. If you observe these symptoms, encourage parents and/or caregivers to contact their healthcare provider or Healthline on 0800 611 116 immediately.

[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](#)

Important Dates

August

Tues 27 Aug – Cluster Speech Comp, Mt Cook

September

Thurs 5 Sep – 2.15pm

Parent/whanau cuppa with Sue

Wed 11 Sep – Board of Trustees Meeting

Thurs 12 Sep – Mihi Whakatau

Thurs 19 Sep – Art Exhibition, 5-7pm

Fri 27 Sep – Last day of term

Term Dates 2024

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

Term Dates 2025

Term 1 2025

Monday 3 February – Friday 11 April

Waitangi Day – Wednesday 6 February

Term 2 2025

Monday 28 April – Friday 27 June

King's Birthday – Monday 2 June

Matariki – Friday 20 June

Term 3 2025

Monday 14 July – Friday 19 September

Term 4 2025

Monday 6 October – either Tues 16 Dec, Wed

17 Dec or Thurs 18 Dec (*end of term date TBC*)

Labour Day – Monday 27 October