



Te Aro School

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Te Aro School Newsletter – 30 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 Kotoko, Tsukiko and Fatih who have recently joined our school community. Tsukiko and Fatih joined Serah and Eva in Rūma Tawa. Kotoko has joined Mathew and Tessa in Rūma Manuka.

Last week we welcomed TK to our support staff team.

With Serah and Eva remaining in the room they moved to during the window project, students across the school voted last week to rename the empty classroom in the East end of the main block. Students voted to call this multipurpose space Rūma Ngaio. Rūma Ngaio was once Cathie's classroom name when she worked down in South Block.

It has been exciting to see students working on their pieces of artwork that they will be exhibiting in their classes' art exhibition displays. Jo has made a great display in the foyer of the students' calendar art. Do come by and admire the great work students have completed. In Rūma Manuka the students have been writing artist blurbs.



We've been writing our own artist blurbs introducing ourselves as an artist would if they were having an exhibition. We're writing in the third person. In our blurbs we have included what inspires us and what has inspired our artwork. We have included quotes in our blurbs. We have also included what art experiences we have most enjoyed. It takes a lot of work to write an interesting blurb. With our blurb we will include a photograph of ourselves. – Navya

Learning Support

In Minister Stanford's email to principals at the start of this week she shared that learning support is one of her six key priorities for education. She noted that she has *"heard loud and clear that learning support is the area that has the most challenges for teachers and schools."* She noted that *"we are not delivering the right service, to the right child, at the right time"* and *"that there are extensive waiting lists for service access and that too much time has been spent on analysing the problems without providing meaningful action to respond to the pressures that schools are facing in the classrooms."*

Last week I met with two other local principals and three Ministry of Education service managers to talk about how hard we are finding it to meet the needs of all our learners particularly those students who have learning support and behavioural needs. We talked about the lack of additional funding and resources that schools are able to apply for. We shared with the Ministry staff our strongly held beliefs that all students deserve access to the support they need to thrive in education. Currently the need for learning support far outstrips provision – for every seven tamariki who access support, three miss out.

I look forward to hearing what the Minister is going to share with Cabinet in the next few weeks to resolve the learning support issues schools are facing across the country.

Cluster Speech Competition at Mt Cook School

Ray, Esther, Tessa, Ella and I all attended the central Wellington schools' speech competition on Tuesday evening at Mt Cook School. Te Aro School was represented by Kamsi, Esther, JJ and Oscar. We were very proud of our four speakers. Congratulations to Esther Bartlett who was placed 1st in the Year 6 category and JJ who was placed 3rd in the Year 7 category.



I enjoyed the evening. I felt a little nervous to start with. I pretended I was just practising my speech as if I was at school. My Dad said I was nice and loud. He also said I spoke at a good pace. In thinking about next year's speeches, I think I'll try to add some humour into my speech. - JJ

Time felt surprisingly slow while I waited while speakers spoke before me. I wished I had been one of the first speakers. My Mum said I should take a few deep breaths before starting to speak. It was hard to know if my voice was loud enough or not. I did not expect to come first. I thought if I was going to be placed that I would be placed 3rd. Having been in the competition I think I'd be more confident competing for a second time. – Esther

News from Technicraft

We cut out all the pieces for our hoodie. I worked on the shoulders first then the arms. Sewing on the actual hood was the hardest as you had to sew over several layers. The needle got stuck at times. Louise, the sewing teacher, helped me a lot with connecting the bobbin thread. My hoodie felt really comfortable to wear. It was less low quality than I had imagined! My Mum was surprised that I actually completed it. – Anh



The real challenge for me was threading the sewing machine's needle. The teacher helped out. It was great sewing with Anh and Norton. I learnt that I had to use needles to keep the different pieces of fabric together so we could then begin sewing the pieces together. My dad said my hoodie was good. – Sione

I'm really pleased that my finished hoodie looks so good. The cuffs on my sleeves are a little too big. Starting to actually sew my hoodie was a little hard especially threading the needle on the sewing machine. – Norton

News from Garden to Table

It was too cold to open the hives last week. We instead did some research about bees. Bees don't hibernate like some mammals do. The bee colony acts like a furnace in the hive. The bees flap their wings to keep the hive warm during the cold winter months – Pia

Last Thursday we made miniature composts in our local action group with Tess. We learnt all about what makes a healthy compost and we considered how we might make our school composts a lot healthier. We learnt about having rations of brown and green matter in a compost. We made our compost with a one to one ratio of brown and green matter.

Each pair of students who have made the miniature composts has either had a lid on their jar or a lid with punctured holes in the lid or no lid at all. Our compost has no lid. We think that our compost won't get mouldy as it will have lots of air getting into it.

– Georgie and Ella



Basketball skills



In Rūma Manuka we have had a focus on basketball skill development over the past two weeks. The main thing we have focussed on is controlling the basketball. We have done low bouncing of the basketball. The hardest thing is to slap your hand on the ball when it is on the ground so that you get the ball to actually bounce up. Moving the ball around your legs and your body was also quite hard. I am really enjoying these sessions with Mathew. – Jay



Since I hurt my leg at netball I've found basketball sessions a little hard. With having a sore knee I have found controlling the ball quite hard especially when we have to dribble low to the ground. I am getting better at controlling the ball as we pass it around our hips and body. – Tadra



Pairing up with a buddy to shoot hoops has been a little hard. Shooting can be really hard. You have to aim for a quarter on the back board. I've managed to get four goals. I think I am improving. – Harper



Badminton

Last week our junior students began badminton lessons with coaches from Wellington Badminton Centre. The students have had four lessons to date.

I managed to use my racquet to keep the balloon from touching the ground. I kept my eyes on where the balloon was going. I had to get my racquet underneath the balloon. I listened to our coaches so I could remember that they were saying we had to do. I always give new things a go! - Florence

It was fun and exciting having badminton lessons. I have seen badminton played before because my Dad plays it. We have racquets at home. I'm looking forward to having more lessons. – Noor

Badminton was fun. I enjoyed hitting the balloons the coaches had blown up. We had a competition to hit the balloons over a white line and then we had to run back to our group. – Livvy



We first practised how to hold our racquet. We practised keeping the balloon up in the air. It was harder keeping the shuttle up in the air than the balloon. I think I am going to enjoy these lessons. – Genevieve

Badminton was so much fun. I managed to bounce the balloon 70 times off my racquet. I am looking forward to playing an actual game against someone. I think that will be so much fun. - Zach



Hitting the balloons was a lot easier than hitting the shuttles. We had a competition when we got into pairs and we hit the balloon back and forth to each other and then we raced back to where the rest of our group was. - Tova

I like that we got to use our racquets to hit the shuttles. The coaches showed us how to form the correct thumb position on our racquet. – Therese



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



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

September

Thurs 5 Sep – 2.15pm

Parent/whanau cuppa with Sue

Wed 11 Sep – Board of Trustees Meeting

Thurs 12 Sep – Mihi Whakataua

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