



Te Aro School

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Te Aro School Newsletter – 2 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 back to Kristin who returned from leave at the start of the new term. We also welcomed back Meena who was away during Term 2. We have welcomed new students Lucas, Ranaya and Tanmay to our school community. Lucas has joined Kristin and Jonny in Rūma Tarata. Ranaya and Tanmay have joined Serah and Eva in Rūma Tawa.

I hope you and your family enjoyed the July holiday break and that you got to enjoy some of Wellington's fine weather. Having worked up at school during the first week of the holidays Molly and I took to having regular walks around Oriental Bay before heading home. Molly really enjoyed a change of scene.

Over the holidays the window work was completed allowing Kristin, Jonny and Cathie to move back into their original classroom spaces. Blinds were installed on all the north facing windows and we are now trialling some window tints for the top windows to reduce the glare in the rooms.

Huge thanks to local keen gardeners Linda, Thomas and Nigel who have transformed the bank at the top of the stairs leading up to Kake Tonu Way. Over one Saturday they planted over 300 native plants. We are so grateful to them for their hard work. I'm really looking forward to seeing these plants thriving in this space.



Thank you all for your patience driving to and from school now that the lower end of The Terrace has been closed off to traffic.

Swimming at the Aquatic Centre

Our senior classes started weekly swimming and water safety lessons at the Aquatic Centre in Kilbirnie at the start of term. With the sudden closure to the end of the Terrace we are not able to get buses up to school. We made the decision that only our Year 5-8 students would have lessons this term. The senior classes are walking down into Willis Street to connect with their buses and then walking back up to school after their lessons.



I enjoyed practising being safe in a kayak. It was my first time being in a kayak. We all wore life jackets which made it a little less scary. We capsized ourselves out of our kayaks and then we had to learn to get back on board after flipping our kayak. It was quite hard doing this. – Lane

Water safety in the kayak is pretty cool. We were in the five-metre pool. In kayaking we learnt paddling skills. I found paddling backwards hard. We learnt that if we were in big waves or choppy water we should join up our kayaks to make a flotilla as that would be safer for us. – Daisy

Water safety was cool! It was my first time being in an inflatable boat. We all wore life jackets. There were three of us in our boat. After flipping the boat we had to flip it over again so we could back on board. –Harper



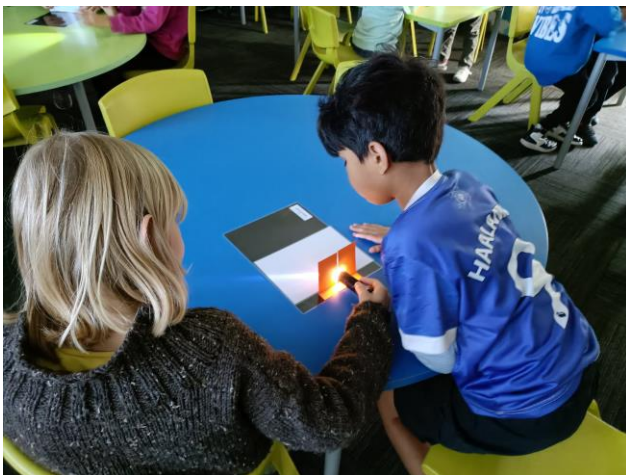
Wearing our life jacket, we had to walk off the pool edge in the five metre pool. You can't see the bottom in this end of the pool. I finally walked off and I screamed! People said they could hear me! We did a scuba diving exercise where you had to hold your nose and fall back off the boat. – Pia

Science

On Monday morning we darkened our room. We put sheets up over the door and the windows so when we turned off the lights we could see the red laser beams. In pairs we had a mirror, a squeeze bottle with water in it and a laser light. We shone the laser onto the wall near us. We sprayed water on where we thought the laser beam was. We could see the light beam very clearly. We also sprayed water on the mirror and then we shone the laser down on the mirror. We saw the light beam go in two different directions. - Thea



I liked how we shone the laser through the plastic bottle of water. We could see the red laser beam was slightly bent. The science kits are so interesting and so cool. I could become a scientist or a teacher or work on trains when I finish school. – Fenny



It has been pretty cool learning about all our different bones. Seeing the size differences and learning the names of them. Before we had the science kit I could name a few bones and now I know at least 14 main names. – Ali

It has been a fun kit. I've learnt the names of the bones. I like how we can dismantle a skeleton and put it back together in a weird way. The kits are really good. This year the kits have a lot more to do, more involvement for us to do. – William



Winter Festival

Each year senior physical education students from Wellington East Girls' College plan and then run a winter sports festival at Aku Tangi Sports centre in Kilbirnie. They invite students from local schools to participate in their fun day of team games. This year our Year 5 & 6 students went to enjoy the day of collaborative team games before heading to the pool for their weekly swimming lesson.

There was a bunch of other schools at the sports centre. I thought it was going to be just us and an average sports event but it wasn't! I enjoyed the fun games designed around Disney franchises. I liked how the games were built around teamwork. – Jay



It was fun going to the festival. Once we started running around it got quite hot. I liked the Disney themed activities - Moana, Lion King, Monsters Inc, Frozen and Toy Story. I enjoyed the Monster Inc activity. We didn't get to do all the activities as we had to leave to head to the pool to meet the rest of our class. – Ruby

I liked the Toy Story game. It was a bit like Red Light Green Light. If you move, you get tagged by a pool noodle. I enjoyed being able to go to this event. – Navya



PMP – perceptual motor programme

At the start of term Anna set up our PMP equipment in what was old Rūma Tawa. PMP is a movement-based program which helps students (our Year 1 -4 students) to improve their eye/hand and eye/foot coordination, fitness, balance, locomotion and eye-tracking skills. This programme links physical movement to the brain to develop the children's motor skills through a series of sequential movement activities using specialised equipment. The development of children's motor skills builds a critical foundation for many learning activities in the classroom. The programme helps our juniors to develop these skills in a fun, holistic and organised way. As the students participate in the programme the children develop coordination, and cognitive functioning (including thinking, reasoning, remembering, problem solving, and decision making).

It has been fun going on the beam. I have liked doing balancing tricks on it. On the beam I have to stand on one leg. It has been like being at the Olympics. – Henry



I like doing PMP. I like to spin in the red cone. I have also liked doing forward rolls on the blue mat. - Astra

I have liked all the balancing things we have been doing. When you are balancing you have to stand in the middle of the balance board. – Terry



I like spinning in the red cone and doing the seesaw activities. You have to try to balance the seesaw. I was wearing socks so it made balancing a little tricky at times. - Lula

What matters to you?

I have been talking with students about what matters to the most. Earlier in the year I read about the Children's Commissioner asking young people they were meeting and talking with the question *What matters to you most?* Some of our young people shared their thoughts with me this week.

My family is the top thing. I care about equality and human rights. Animals and the environment are also big ones for me. I care about school a lot. I like learning new things and meeting new people. – Neva

My parents and my little brother Manu matter most to me. – Libero

My family. My friends. My two dogs. My creativity – writing, making and listening to music, movies and computer games. – Oscar

My cat is important to me. My friends are important too as well as annoying my sister. Friends matter to me even if they distract me at school. It's good to have friends. And then there are booksI can't imagine life without books. I like reading so I can tune out the world. They help me to relax and be calm. – Chelsea

Obviously my family are important to me. Everyone should be wanting world peace. Right now netball is important to me. – Selva

My two kittens matter to me a lot. On a cold day I can cuddle up to them. My Mum and Dad matter to me as they do lots of things for me. My uncle is also important. He's very funny. He collects me from school some days and takes me to my guitar lessons. – Luci

That's a hard question to answer as there are so many things I wish for. I want my family to remain well and that learning stays fun and interesting. There are lots of things that are important to me but not big important things. – Frida

Having free time matters to me. I like time to play – online games and games outdoors. Maths, my favourite subject, matters a lot to me. Global warming and climate change matter to me too. – Felix

My two guinea pigs matter to me. My parents matter to me. Football is important to me too – playing it and watching it. – Veer

My family, my religion, sports like football and basketball matter to me. Not eating gross boiled vegetables matters to me. The war in Israel and Palestine matters to me. It worries me. – Tariq

Right now everything in my life matters to me as I am in a pretty happy place. Desserts matter to me too especially hot chocolate, chocolate bars, tiramisu. Just anything with chocolate in it! Basically anything that is sweet! – Sophie

News from the kitchen

We made pumpkin pie on Thursday with Miranda and Emily. We lined the pie tins with baking paper before we put our pastry in the pie tins. We had to cut up our pumpkin and cook it. We filled two pots with pumpkin. We added spices to our mashed pumpkin – ginger, cinnamon, and all spice. It took a while to cook our pies. We served the pies with whipped cream. – Willow

I thought the pumpkin pie was sweet and tasty. It was both fun and hard to make the pies. It was hard to trace the pie liner into a tidy circle as the paper moved around a bit. – Thao



It was an interesting pie to make. The easiest and most enjoyable part of making the pie was using a fork to prick the pastry base of the pies. The hardest part of making the pies was peeling the pumpkin. – Faris

I thought the pie was delicious. I'd never eaten pumpkin pie before. The filling was really nice. It was smooth and soft in your mouth. The pastry was definitely the best part. – Daisy

I liked how the pie wasn't too spicy. I could taste the cinnamon. It wasn't my favourite dessert that we have made and eaten at school. I preferred the apple and rhubarb crumble. – Izzy

News from Garden to Table

I have really enjoyed making tracking devices to see if we have a rat problem here at school. We put an ink pad and a tracking strip down. We put peanut butter on our tracking strip so if we have rats they will walk across the ink pad and then leave their prints on the tracking cardboard strip. We put a plastic box over the tracking pad so the rain wouldn't ruin the tracks they might be made. I have a feeling we will find out we have rats around the school. – Lane

Eloise and I made posters to let the younger students know not to touch the rat tracking stations. We are going share the posters with the junior classes next week. – Isabella

I put peanut butter on both ends of my detection card. I put the ink pad in the middle. With the tracking things there is an identification sheet we can use to identify what animal has left their footprints. It could be a rat or a mouse or a stoat or a lizard. We have put tracking stations all around the school in different places. – Archie



On Thursday we planted a variety of seeds including rocket, basil, cress, parsley, coriander and mesclun salad greens in the garden bed behind our class. We planted some seeds in trays to which we have put behind our classroom. We made a miniature glass house that we put over the seed trays. – Annie



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

August

Fri 9 Aug – Te Hikioi speech finals

Thurs 15 Aug – 9am –

Parent/whanau cuppa with Sue

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

