



Te Aro School

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Te Aro School Newsletter – 9 May 2025

News from the Principal's Desk

Tena tatou katoa e te whanau. Talofa. Kia orana, Bula, Dobar dahn, Nabad, Hola, Ciao, Ni hao, Namaste, As-Salaam-Alaikum, Bonjour, Konnichiwa, Buon giorno, Cześć, Mingalarpar, Selamat datang, Walang anuman, Buon giorno, Guten Tag, Cześć, Salamu Aleykum, Hallo, Merhaba, Akkam, Selamat datang, Walang anuman, Mabuhay, Xin chào

Last week flew by in a whirlwind of events. Thank you to those of you who joined the school at the special Friday school assembly that was held in Mathew and Tessa's classroom to acknowledge my New Year's honour. My thanks to the staff team, Friends of Te Aro, the Board and of course the students. In particular I wish to thank our kapa haka group for braving the cold weather to welcome me and my family into the assembly space. Thanks too to all the students and whanau who spoke. It was wonderful to see old friends including past staff members including Bernice, Kate, Walter and Andy. Finally, I want to acknowledge Jo for the beautifully woven and knotted korowai which she made for me. I look forward to hanging it up either in my office or in the foyer. Ngā mihi mō tō koutou manaakitanga.



We ended this week with a full evacuation on Friday morning after the fire alarms were triggered. Teachers, support staff and students were quickly accounted for as they assembled on the top playground. Thankfully the rain played ball and stopped while we waited for the fire brigade. The fire brigade responded quickly and arrived to check the main building. They suspected that insects were the cause of the faulty sensor in the main foyer.



Nau mai haere mai

A very warm welcome to our new students and their families who have joined our school community over the past two weeks. We have welcomed Ben, Jack, Rory, David, Dhrishiv and Altheah. Ben has joined Meena and Ray in Rūma Pohutukawa. Jack, Rory, David and Dhrishiv have joined Serah in Rūma Tawa. Altheah has joined Eva in Rūma Ngaio.

We are excited this week to welcome Bao, our new bilingual teacher aide. Bao will be supporting some of our Vietnamese speaking students. Bao is going to be working at our school and Mt Cook School.

We have also welcomed Oliver into Rūma Mānuka for the next six weeks, where he is completing a block placement as part of his Masters programme at Victoria University. Oliver has previously been working with Year 3 students at Newtown School. While Oliver is with us, Shara (also a masters student who is working alongside Mathew and Tessa) is spending time at Miramar North.

Swimming in the Senior School

The Year 7 & 8 students have begun weekly swimming lessons at the Aquatics Centre in Kilbirnie on a Wednesday afternoon.



I really enjoyed using the life jackets. I'm enjoying the water safety activities including swimming as a group and linking up as a chain. I prefer activities like this instead of swimming laps. I also enjoy when we get free time at the end of a lesson. - Esther

I really liked how clean the water was at the pool. I was a little anxious that it might not be like that even though the teachers had reassured me it would be clean water. The water was warm too and that made it relaxing to swim in. I have been learning to float. I am getting more confident in the water. Back home in the Philippines we don't learn to swim at school. I want to become a more advanced swimmer this term and how to protect myself from drowning. – Eliora



I have enjoyed learning new water safety skills. I have to admit that free time is the best! I'm looking forward to kayaking. I've got a little experience kayaking as my Aunt showed me how to paddle. - Matai

Swimming last year and this year has been so different from previous years now that they have introduced learning water safety skills like wearing life jackets. The life jackets feel quite heavy to wear as they are so full of water. We have practised making a circle by holding onto other people's life jackets. Making a circle makes us more visible in the water if we needed to be rescued. We have also learnt to make a chain by linking up and then lying back in the water. In the chain we kick and we move in the direction of the person's head at the top of the chain. The last swimmer kicks to move the group through the water. Others in the middle of the chain also help by using a frog kick to help move the group in the water. - Lane



Basketball

The basketball season has begun after school on a Wednesday. We have a Year 7 & 8 team entered in this term's competition at Ākau Tangi Sports Centre in Kilbirnie.

I'm enjoying playing basketball this term. I think our team is getting along well. I think we could focus a little more on little things like running down the court. I'm looking forward to us getting a big win! - Matai

I enjoy playing in the Year 7 & 8 team. We have such a variety of skills and experience in the team. Some of us are really good at shooting. Some of us are really good at passing the ball. I am looking forward to increasing the number of points I score. - Louie



Both our team and the opposition team were competitive. I think they have had more practice opportunities than we have had. Basketball requires teamwork. You need to be passing the ball and giving others the chance to pass the ball. If the team is playing well together you feel more confident and that helps you on the court. - Sophia

I was nervous playing this week. I could tell that the team we were playing against were experts. I was pleased with how my defending in the game was strong. I was proud of myself for scoring a goal for our team. - Keyzelle

Working towards our Term 3 production

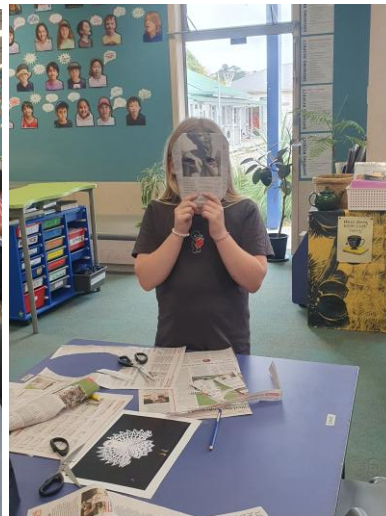
Over the past fortnight our years 5 - 8 students have had the opportunity to dip their toes into the four production groups that the seniors can choose to be in for production. They get to rank the four possible options in order of their favourite to least favourite performing arts option. Their options include dance, drama, wearable arts and music.

I think I would most like to be in drama. Ray makes drama great. I already do drama outside of school. I think I'd like to be part of wearable art as my second option. - Alexandra



My first choice would be music. My second choice would be drama. I'm excited about drumming and using several apps to make our own musical compositions. We will be making music to accompany the wearable arts models. – Alfie

I most want to do drama. I am very good at being dramatic, in a good way! My second choice group would be either wearable arts or dance. For me the heart of production is the stage. I feel like all the Year 7 and 8s want to do drama. I hope that's not the case and that is just my brain messing with me! – Thea



I thought I was going to most enjoy wearable arts but in the end I liked drama and wearable arts as my top two options. I haven't done drama before. I liked pretending to be different things when I worked with Ray. – Tova

I most want to do drama for the production as I really enjoy acting. My 2nd choice option would be dance. It was good being able to try each of the four production groups out before we had to decide what we most wanted to be in. I hope we hear soon what group we will be in. – Ella

Maths professional learning

School will be closed on **Friday 30 May** as the staff team will be participating in a Ministry of Education Maths professional learning day. This day is after our Year 7 & 8s return from their noho marae. Please put this date in your diary and start planning cover for your child(ren) that day.

Working with Hao Yu

Hao Yu, our Mandarin language assistant, introduced us to a new game last week. Jianzi is a traditional Chinese sport where players try to keep a heavily weighted shuttlecock in the air using their bodies. They cannot use their hands in this game. It is quite hard keeping the ball up and landing it back on your foot. You need two or three or more people to play the game. We're looking forward to playing the game again next week. People in Nepal play a game like this one. - Kautilya and Naksh



I liked learning a new game with Hao Yu and having something new to do at lunchtime. I enjoyed the fact that the game we played was a bit challenging as you didn't always kick the shuttle up in the air and catch it back on your foot. I'll definitely go back to playing the game next week when Hao Yu is back at school. - Rose G



Jianzi has a long history of over two thousand years. According to the International Shuttlecock Association website, jianzi (or a version of it), can be traced to at least the Han dynasty (206 BC – 220 AD).

Education Review Office's Attendance Survey

Researchers at the Education Review Office (ERO) are undertaking some research about school attendance. They want to hear your thoughts about how we improve student attendance.

ERO is looking at how attitudes have changed to regular attendance in the last few years. They want to put out a practical resource for schools. They also want to make recommendations to the government. They hope that you will complete their short survey (5-10 min). Here's the link: [Parent and Whānau survey](#)

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



School Notices

Pink Shirt Day!

Pink shirt day is a special day where we wear pink. It's a day to spread aroha and kindness and end bullying. That means, no cyber bullying, no physical bullying etc. We encourage you to wear something pink for this day



**Kōrero mai, Kōrero atū Mauri Tu Mauri Ora.
Speak up, Stand Together, Stop Bullying!**

**Friday 16th of May
Week 3**



Important Dates

May

Mon 12 May – School Cross Country

Mon 12 May – Vision & Hearing Testing

Fri 16 May – Pink Shirt Day

Tues 20 May – Central Zones Cross Country

Wed 21 May – Board of Trustees Meeting

Thurs 22 May – Central Zones Cross Country
(postponement day)

Tues 27 May – Manuka sleepover

Tues 27 May – Thurs 29 May – NOHO Y7&Y8

Fri 30 May – Teacher Only Day *(school closed for tuition)*

June

Mon 2 June – King's Birthday *(school closed for tuition)*

Friday 6 June – Y8 Rongotai Visit

Thursday 12 June – WEGC Open Day Y8

Wed 18 June – School Matariki Celebration

Fri 20 June – Matariki *(school closed for tuition)*

Mon 23 June – Book Fair

Tues 24 and Wed 25 June – Parent Teacher Interviews

Term Dates 2025

Term 2 2025

Monday 28 April – Friday 27 June

Teacher Only Day – Friday 30 May

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 – Wed 17 December

Labour Day – Monday 27 October