



Te Aro School

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## Te Aro School Newsletter – 18 June 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**

At the end of last week we farewelled Oliver who has been on his second teaching placement as part of his Masters studies. Oliver returned to Newtown School where he will complete his teaching studies. We wish him all the best.

#### **Matariki Puanga**

Ka ara mai a Matariki.  
Ka ara mai a Puanga.  
Ka mānawatia a Puanga.  
Ka mānawatia a Matariki.

Katariki rises.  
Puanga rises.  
Celebrate Puanga.  
Celebrate Matariki.



Matariki Puanga is a time to reflect, a time to remember whanau and friends who may have passed and to set new goals. How timely that we have parent teacher interviews next week when we can encourage our tamariki to set themselves goals that they can focus on during Terms 3 & 4.

Matariki the star cluster, which signals the Māori New Year is visible in the sky above New Zealand between late May and mid-June. To locate Matariki, look towards the northeast horizon before sunrise, specifically between 5:30 AM and 6:30 AM. First, find Tautoru (also known as Orion's Belt) - three bright stars in a line. From there, look to the left to find Te Kokotā (the Hyades cluster), a pyramid shape, and then further to the left to see Matariki

[Watch a video on how to find Matariki](#)

**On Wednesday evening we had our school celebration of Matariki. See Sue's message about this at the end of the newsletter**

## Nau mai haere mai

A warm welcome to Eliana who joined Serah in Rūma Tawa last week.

## Reporting to whānau

I have enjoyed reading all the reports that Anna, Kristin, Eva, Ella, Tessa, Mathew, Meena and Ray have written about their students. It is great to read about individual students' progress and see the goals that teachers are making with students about their next learning steps. These reports will form the basis for next week's parent teacher interviews on Tuesday 24 and Wednesday 25 June. It is interesting to see the suggestions made by some teachers about how you could support your child's learning at home.

Suggestions worth thinking about included:

- Limiting device time or at least letting your child have access to a device after they have contributed to completing a regular household chore or after talking about their learning that day.
- Using the posts on Seesaw as a way of talking about what your child has been doing at school. Using prompts like: *What made this such a fun activity? What did you most enjoy about this learning?*
- Talking positively with your child about new and maybe challenging learning. Reminding your child about how they previously found something hard and how they went about mastering it. How might they use that previous learning experience to help them to master something they are currently learning that they find a challenge.
- Encourage your child to set goals for themselves. What would they like to accomplish? Having set a goal, talk with your child about what it would look like to accomplish this goal. How will it feel? Talk with your child about some of the obstacles that might get in the way of meeting this goal. Finally make a plan for how they might deal with these obstacles. Have your child share with you their wish (what they hope for); the outcome they hope for; what obstacles might they meet and finally help them to come up with a plan. Adopting such an approach might see your child experiencing a more positive attitude to new and challenging learning.

Some of the reports I read had very specific goals set by the students themselves. They included:

- *In Maths my goal is to ask for help when I don't understand something.*
- *In writing I want to work on planning what I am going to write before I begin writing so that I can organise my ideas.*
- *In Maths I would like to get better at keeping a positive attitude even when I find something challenging. In reading my goal is to notice new and exciting words in the books I am reading.*
- *In writing I want to get better at making my sentences more interesting by using different types of sentences. One other goal I have is to reduce my screen time at home.*
- *I would like to learn to paragraph my writing. One other goal I have is to try to focus when the teacher is talking.*
- *In reading my goal is to stay focussed on the text so I can process it better. In writing I would like to make my amazing writing into something useful. One other goal I have this year is to get better at using my chromebook.*
- *I want to be able to get better at using the interesting words that I see and hear in reading time when I am writing.*
- *I want to get better and keep on trying when something is hard.*
- *This year I am going to tell myself every day that I am awesome and to get better at things I need to keep a positive attitude even when I find something is challenging.*

I hope you have made your appointment with your child's teacher.

### Belated New Zealand Music Month Assembly News

On Friday 23 May we held our annual New Zealand Music Month Assembly. My thanks to all our performers, and to Kristin and our assembly hosts JJ, Selva, Dezon, Alimar, Kathrina and Tariq for organising such a lovely afternoon.



It was great to enjoy musical items performed by current senior students, staff members and members of our school community. We were also thrilled to have a surprise musician join us to end our afternoon.

Congratulations to the senior band Roaming Gold (JJ, Dezon, Alfie, Annie, Amelia, ) who made their debut performance playing *Nothing Else Matters* by Metallica. We are very grateful to Izzy Iverson, a former student of Te Aro, who has been working with the band every Wednesday morning. We look forward to the band's next performance as they are about to be joined by some electric guitar players.



We then enjoyed Bruce and two of his brass players JJ and Esther. JJ and Esther work with Bruce on a Friday morning.



Following Bruce, Jade, a local singer, songwriter and Ella's best friend from high school performed. Jade has performed at Cuba Dupa, and recently released two of her own songs on Spotify. Accompanying Jade was Tom on guitar and Ella on vocals.



Haoyu, our Mandarin language assistant, introduced us to her friend Miko who played the Guzheng a traditional Chinese instrument.

We welcomed back Linden, Rose and Owen's Mum. She has been playing her violin at our music month concerts since Owen was a baby. Owen's now in Year 5!



Wrapping up our afternoon was Izzy, then Bailey (a member of our support staff team) and our much anticipated surprise guest Jarrod Wood who wears a tree costume and plays the saxophone.







*I liked the whole assembly. It was awesome! I especially liked having Tree Man visit us. I'm a Swiftie fan so I liked how he played her piece. When Ella and Jade sang it influenced me to join the choir with Tessa and Ella. – Thea*

*I really liked this year's music month assembly. I especially liked Tree Man. I see him around Oriental Parade. Mr Mole (the dog) I spend time with hates him especially when Tree Man jumps out of bushes. Tree Man was a hit at our assembly! I thought Jade, who sang with Ella, was really amazing. The school band was also incredible. - Georgie*

*I loved the Music Month assembly. I thought Jade's singing was so good. I liked the school band. I thought Alfie's drumming was good as well as JJ's singing. I also liked Tree Man because he was so funny in his costume. – Manasvi*



*I loved Jade. After seeing her perform I listened to her songs on Spotify. I joined our choir so I could work with Ella. I didn't even know that Ella was a singer until our Music Month assembly. I cried when Tree Man played Taylor Swift's Love Story. The school band performing Metallica's Nothing Else Matters was a good choice of a song for them to play. It really was the best NZ Music Month Assembly I've been to. – Pia*



*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

## Join us at the Te Aro School Book Fair - in the library 23rd - 25<sup>th</sup> June



We will be holding our annual book fair where families will be able to purchase books to enjoy at home and/or to donate to our school library. Come and have a browse at the great selection on offer. The school receives a percentage from each sale. We plan to use the money raised to support our literacy programmes across the school.

### Opening Times:

**Monday 23rd June:** 3.00 - 4.00pm

**Tuesday 24th June:** 8.15 - 8.50am, 2.00 - 7.00pm (during parent teacher interviews)

**Wednesday 25th June:** 8.15 - 8.50 am, 2.00 - 5.00pm (during parent teacher interviews)

**We welcome Cash / EFTPOS / Credit Cards**

## ✨ ✨ ✨ ✨ ✨ Matariki Celebration Message *from Sue* ✨ ✨ ✨ ✨ ✨

What a truly wonderful event we had on Wednesday evening. It was such a special evening being able to come together as a school whanau to celebrate Matariki ma Puanga.

### My thanks to:

- Friends of Te Aro for providing their donations and their time to support our evening including vegetables for the hangi, their baking, their time setting up and tidying up at the end of the evening, sizzling sausages, and serving food
- New World Metro for their generous donations
- The staff team for working an extended day
- Huge thanks to Tessa who worked over two days to prepare and cook the hangi
- Our kapa haka group for their opening of our evening
- Thank you, Mathew, for the leadership you provide this group.

Mānawatia a Matariki,  
*Sue*







## Important Dates

### June

**Mon 23, Tues 24 and Wed 25 June** – Book Fair  
**Tues 24 and Wed 25 June** – Parent Teacher Interviews

### July

**Mon 14, Wed 16, Thurs 17, Fri 18 July** – Swimming – Kauri, Nikau, Manuka  
**Mon 21, Wed 23, Thurs 24, Fri 25 July** – Swimming – Kauri, Nikau, Manuka  
**Mon 28, Wed 30, Thurs 31 July** – Swimming – Ngaio and Tarata  
**Wed 30 July** – Handball Tournament Year 7/8

### August

**Fri 1 Aug** - Swimming – Ngaio and Tarata  
**Mon 4, Wed 6, Thurs 7, Fri 8 August** – Swimming – Ngaio and Tarata  
**Mon 25 Aug** – Speech Competition at Mount Cook

## 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