



Te Aro School

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## Te Aro School Newsletter – 25 July 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**

When the sun is out it is great to see classes taking advantage of the dry weather. There have been lots of skipping and football lessons taking place out on the two playgrounds. Several classes are using the playground spaces to begin their production item rehearsals. Yesterday afternoon the staff team visited the hall and stage space at Wellington Girls' College where we will be performing our production. With six weeks until our production week teachers and students are shaping up their ideas. I am a little fearful of what the senior drama group might be preparing for me!

#### **Nau mai haere mai**

A very warm welcome to our new students and their families who have joined Te Aro School whanau over the past two weeks. We have welcomed Frankie, Amy, Muhong, and Etienne. Frankie has joined Serah in Rūma Tawa. Amy and Etienne have both joined Anna in Rūma Nikau. Muhong has joined Tessa and Mathew in Rūma Manuka.

#### **Swimming at the Aquatic Centre**

Rūma Nikau, Rūma Kauri and Rūma Manuka have over the first two weeks of term been enjoying a series of swimming lessons at the Aquatic Centre. I visited Anna and Ella's class at the end of the first week of lessons. It was so exciting to see the progress some of our students had made after only four days of lessons.



*I love swimming. I love swimming a lot! On the first day I wasn't that excited about swimming but now I am feeling more confident in the water. I can now float like a starfish on my back. I can do a front push off from the wall. I can kick while I do this. – Phoebe*

*I have been learning to do starfishes at swimming. I have got quite good at floating in this way. I can float on my back and on my front. I am better at swimming this year than last year. I hope by the end of our lessons this week I can float for longer times. – Waleed*



*I have enjoyed all the swimming lessons I have had. I can now float. In Iran I would have had to use floaties to float. I hope I can swim by the end of this week. – Alan*

*I have liked our swimming lessons. I can now do dog paddling. I can hold my breath under water. I can also float. My parents say they are proud of me. – Etienne*

*I can go down under the water and I can then jump up to hold onto the edge of the pool. I can now float too. I am going to work hard to see if I can swim by the end of the week. – Glennisha*

### **Visiting High Schools**

At the end of last term and during this coming term our Year 8s are visiting high schools that they are considering to enrol in for 2026. They shared their thoughts with me at the end of last term.

*I quite liked Rongotai but I'm going to Wellington High School like my sister. I liked Wellington High School's music and art departments. Overall I really liked Wellington High. I'm definitely going to join a band. I'm going to focus on the arts. I'm going to join clubs too. – Alfie*

*I am looking for a school with a good science programme and science labs. I'm leaning towards studying engineering at university so I want to take subjects that will help me in this area. I'm still not sure whether I am going to Wellington East Girls' College or Wellington Girls' College. I know that I am not going to Wellington High. – Frida*

*I visited Rongotai and Wellington College. Rongotai was a fun visit. Wellington College had so many classrooms and I felt that there were so many great opportunities for my future. I'm definitely going to study Māori, Japanese, PE and I am really looking forward to English. – Cass*

*I'm going to Wellington High School. I really liked the music and art classrooms. I liked all the teachers I met. I think I'll definitely do performing arts and I'll join the Shakespeare club. – Neva*

*I'm enrolled at Wellington East Girls' College. I felt it was the best school for me. My Mum went there and she liked it. I am looking to join kapa haka and a choir. At East there are multiple choirs. – Selva*

*I'm going into Wellington College's ballot for a place there for 2026. I liked the language options at Wellington College and the sports options. I'd like to learn Japanese. My uncle attended Wellington College. I'll know next week after 28 July if I have a place. – Tariq*

*I'm undecided as to whether I go to Wellington East Girls' College or Wellington Girls' College. I think they are both good schools. My cricket friends go to Wellington Girls and my football friends go to Wellington East Girls. – JJ*

### **Winter Festival**

Mathew took twenty of our Year 5 & 6 students to the Winter Fest tournament at Ākau Tangi Sports Centre in Kilbirnie on Tuesday of this week. Students enjoyed an active day of organised sports activities hosted by Year 11 and Year 12 girls from Wellington East Girls' College. It was a chance for our students to play a number of games in teams made up from students from schools across inner city Wellington.



*Winter Fest was lots of fun. The theme for the day was the Olympics. We were put into teams which were different countries. I was in the Australian team. We were the only team that had a chant. I thought the hockey game was so much fun. You got to steal balls from hoops. I also liked playing Golden Child where there were two teams: the shooters and the runners. If a shooter scored the runners had to stop running. Australia won the Olympics! – Eloise*

*I enjoyed the whole day as I made four new friends. They were all from Mt Cook School. I most loved playing the basketball game. I was in team Japan. Japan came second. I was made player of the day for Japan. – Naksh*



*It was a great sports festival. There were so many activities including hockey, futsal and basketball. It was a great day as you made new friends really fast as there were students from other schools in your team. I think playing basketball was my favourite part of the day. – Leo*



*I really liked our bus rides. We had Rob as our driver. He likes to play music that we can sing along to. At the festival I liked the chanting we did in the Australian team I was in. Ozzie Ozzie Ozzie Oi Oi Oi. I also enjoyed the Octopus game we played at the end of the day. – Liam*

### **Road Patrol Training with Constable Aaron**

On Wednesday morning this week our Year 5 students spent the morning training as road patrollers with Constable Aaron. Our seniors are on patrol each school day ensuring our school community is able to safely cross The Terrace on their way to school and on their way home.

*We had fun training as road patrollers. The training was nothing like what the year 6 and 8s said it would be like. It really was fun! I like all the roles equally except maybe the person who stands on the hotel side of the road as they don't have as much of role as the other two patrollers. Once we're trained we will have a duty time and we can also fill in for people who are not at school - Thea*



*It's an important job being a road patroller. It's important as it is a way of helping our community stay safe. I like how once you're trained as a patroller that you can fill in for other people if they can't do their day. - Genevieve*

*I liked how we did our training in groups. I liked how once we have completed our training that we will work together to do the different tasks. I liked the role in the crow's nest most. I like how that role doesn't involve standing down on the road and using the signs. – Tova*

## Starting the New Term

Ray and Afsana asked their students to reflect on the start of the new term and what each of them are most looking forward to. They shared these reflections with their families via Seesaw reflections.

*My favourite activity this week was handball because it's a fun game with a mix of football, basketball and netball. We are writing speeches. My speech topic is Why AI should be discontinued. - Tariq*



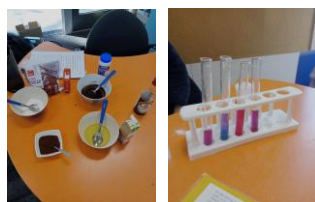
*My favourite activity in week 1 of the term was the science experiment we did with Afsana where we made sherbet because I liked pouring water on it and watching it fizz up. We are writing speeches. My speech topic is Why Ballet is for Everyone. What I am looking forward to this term is Production, because I like the attention. – Alexandra Shima*

*My favourite activity this week was starting speech planning because I got to look into some cool ideas of speeches. We are writing speeches. My speech topic is Why cryptocurrency is a dangerous alternative to traditional banking. What I am looking forward to this term is the handball tournament because I think it would be a good opportunity to play handball for the first time. - Alfie*

*My favourite activity last week was making sherbet because it was fun doing a new experiment and having the chance to work with my friends. I am looking forward to production this term. I'm in the wearable arts group. We are making a cool wearable art costume that I am going to get to wear on production day. – Izzy*

*My favourite activity coming back to school has been Handball. It is very exhilarating. As goalkeeper, I was good at making such good saves! We are writing speeches. My speech topic is The Danger of "Fake News" on social media. What I am looking forward to this term are the high school interviews. I am excited to see the new opportunities high school may hold for me and I can explore all the different paths and career options. – Campbell*

*My favourite activity since the start of term has been writing speeches because I get to learn how to write speeches and not only that I get to practice my communication skills and hopefully I won't be shy to use it. I am looking forward to performing my speech in front of a crowd because I am excited to see everyone's reaction to it. – Eliora*



*My favourite activity since the term started has been science. I liked learning more about chemical reactions. I am looking forward to more science this term. – Emily*

*My favourite activity in the first week of term was handball because I really enjoyed playing up on the turf. We are writing speeches. My speech topic is why morning showers are good for you. I'm looking forward to this term and giving my speech because I'm feeling confident about speaking in front of the class. – Kathrina*

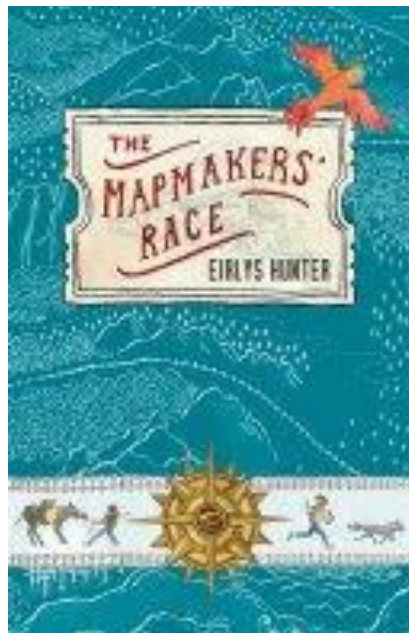
*My favourite activity last week was science because we made sherbet. Our sherbet had a unique texture. It was like a flour texture that bubbled in your mouth for a little. It had an orange taste in it that was sweet at first and sour at the end. I am looking forward to our team's basketball games this term after school on a Wednesday afternoon. - Keyzelle*

### **Visiting author**

*On Wednesday morning Adam and Anna had arranged for Eirlys Hunter, a local author, to visit our school and to talk with two groups of students. Before morning tea Eirlys spoke to Anna's class and after morning tea she talked to our Year 7 and 8 students.*



*Anna had read *The Mapmakers' Race* to our class last term. I liked how Eirlys talked about the making of her book. She told us how much she really liked maps. She explained that at university she studied geography.*



*In writing *The Mapmakers' Race* she wanted a character that could fly. She said she wanted all her characters to be different. She said she had written lists of things that would be hard for the characters to do. Eirlys said it had taken her around seven years to write and publish this book. – Zoja*

*I really liked how Eirlys could answer all our questions. I liked finding out what an author thought about actually writing a book. It was such a cool experience talking with an author. It was a great way to inspire us to become authors ourselves. I liked how Eirlys liked maps and she included that in her book. I liked learning that she didn't go to university to learn about writing but to learn about graphy instead. Eirlys shared that if she had a magical power she hoped it would be to fly and that's what her character Francie could do. – Nina*

*It was exciting having Eirlys visit us on Wednesday morning. She told us about how as writers we need to make our characters different from each other. I loved how she was very sure about herself. She was very honest with us that it wouldn't be easy to earn a lot of money being a writer and published author. She talked about how she connected with each of her characters and that each character had a little part of herself in each of them. – Kala*

*I liked the way Eirlys talked to us. She answered our questions and explained things to us well. She gave us some great writing advice including writing from where you are and what you know. She told us we could write about anything as long as we could convince a reader or a publisher. Eirlys said that there were many ways of being a writer including being an author, writing text for film and TV scripts, and writing text for online games. She also said that she thought you needed to read, to be a keen reader in order to be a writer. In her book *The Mapmakers' Race* she had a group of characters creating maps and there was conflict in the story. I think conflict makes a story more interesting. – Eliora*

*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*



### **Keen to join the Board?**

If you would like to find out more about becoming a board member you can attend a free [Kōrari for Aspiring Board Members webinar](#) on Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> of July.

Or watch the latest [Kōrari webinar](#)

**Nominations close at 12pm on 6 August.**

Returning officer – [jobrett@tearo.school.nz](mailto:jobrett@tearo.school.nz)

### **Change of name for Race Relations Day**

We have decided to give this special day, which we celebrate each year, a more meaningful name so that our students and whānau have a better understanding of the day's purpose. We think this new name reflects our goals for this important celebration more clearly. Race Relation Day will become

#### **"Cultural Connections Celebration"**

Watch out for more information about this year's celebration which will be held in week 3 next term, on Tuesday October 21st.

## Important Dates

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| <b><u>July</u></b><br><b>Mon 21, Wed 23, Thurs 24, Fri 25 July</b> – Swimming – Kauri, Nikau, Manuka<br><br><b>Mon 28, Wed 30, Thurs 31 July</b> – Swimming – Ngaio and Tarata<br><br><b>Wed 30 July</b> – Handball Tournament Year 7/8 | <b><u>August</u></b><br><b>Fri 1 Aug</b> - Swimming – Ngaio and Tarata<br><br><b>Wed 6 Aug</b> – Nominations for Board of Trustees close at 12pm. Voting papers issued by 13 Aug<br><br><b>Mon 4, Wed 6, Thurs 7, Fri 8 August</b> – Swimming – Ngaio and Tarata<br><br><b>Mon 25 Aug</b> – Speech Competition at Mount Cook | <b><u>September</u></b><br><b>Thurs 4 Sept</b> – Whole School Production<br><br><b>Wed 10 Sept</b> – Election Day for Te Aro School Board of Trustees. Poll closes at 4pm. Results declared on Tues 16 Sept<br><br><b>Fri 19 Sept</b> – Last day of term |
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## Term Dates 2025

### Term 3 2025

Monday 14 July – Friday 19 September

### Term 4 2025

Monday 6 October – Wed 17 December  
(school finishes at 12pm)

***Labour Day** – Monday 27 October*