



Te Aro School

360 The Terrace, Wellington 6011

office@tearo.school.nz

Te Aro School Newsletter – 19 September 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

I can't believe that today is our last day of Term 3. Can you believe that three quarters of the year is behind us? It has been a busy term with some really exciting learning opportunities taking place, not least our biennial production!

I have been undertaking inclass observations across the school over the past week. I will continue the last of these observations at the start of Term 4. This week's observations have given me an opportunity to see the progress being made by so many of our students. Following these observations I enjoy the conversations that take place with the teachers. They help me to plan for meeting the needs of both students and staff for 2026.

I wish you and your family a restful two week break. I had prepared myself for spending time caring for my partner Chris over the holidays as he was to have his right knee replaced. Unfortunately, his operation date has been changed. Instead I will get on top of some of my admin work and some reading for pleasure. There will of course be some coastal walks with Molly. I hope your children will take some time to recharge for our final term of the year - a BIG term for our Year 8s as they prepare to leave us and head off to high school.

My thanks to the staff team (teachers, support staff including Georgie, Jo and Graham) who have worked so hard this term. My thanks to the team for rolling with frequent teaching and support staff changes (due to absences and illness) - this has involved such flexibility, adaptability and real graciousness.

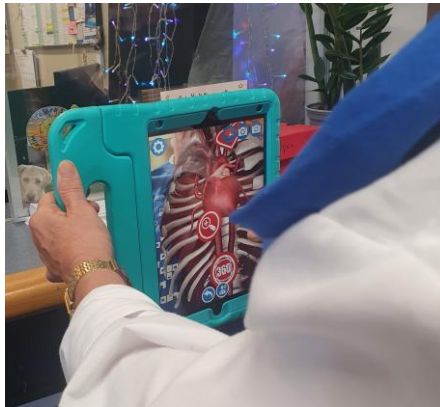
May we all enjoy soaking up some fine Spring weather!



Highlights of the term

As we ended the term staff shared these highlights with me:

- Production - very proud of those students who took time to learn their welcome speeches and overcame their nerves to represent our diversity on the night. The whole event was just brilliant! Some great First Language Time (FLT) sessions - it's been cool to introduce some new groups - Indonesian and Burmese. Loved the opportunity to judge the senior speeches. The finalists were all very impressive.
- Production - Seeing all of my students fully participating. Nice feedback from parents about the evening. Swimming (kids love it, all our non swimmers made huge improvements). Science kit- The Heart kit was great. Artsplash was fabulous. Lots of Year 4 kids were involved and they loved it!



- Production was a joy to watch. Great to see our children with additional needs participate so successfully. Having lots of teacher aide support for the show was also great - it was wonderful having so many members of the team available and able to support on the night. The speech competition - I loved the opportunity to be a judge. The quality of the speeches was top-notch!
- Production - loved the integrated learning around that. Appreciated the level of support and the way Katie (and others) managed the cover during the times when support staff were sick - everyone's flexibility and support was so helpful. Swimming - the two week block worked well, developing a high level of independence in the students managing themselves.
- Production - felt like a celebration of everything that we represent and value.
- Kapa haka - loved learning the new items for production. An awesome group of students. Speeches - Great standard across our year 5 & 6 class. Science kits - an awesome resource. Swimming - Love the water safety focus and that it really challenged students' abilities and comfort zones. So lucky to have a student teacher in our class as the students benefited from having more focussed learning opportunities.



- Production was a massive success. The kids shone and had the best time. They loved our class rehearsals and were audibly excited any time I added it onto our daily timetable. They learnt so many skills like perseverance, collaboration and professionalism when things don't go to plan! Being involved in Artsplash was wonderful. I am very happy and lucky to be able to draw on my passion and work with the kids who also love it. Thank you Tess for including me! Swimming in weeks 1 and 2 was great and having it condensed into 2 consecutive weeks allowed the students to progress quickly and learn routines. They loved it so much and they have talked about it often.
- Production - what a wonderful celebration of our students' creativity. Senior speeches - this was the first year in ever so long when students delivered their speeches without alternative presentation times/opportunities being needed. Our in-school finalists were amazing and truly reflected our school's diversity.



- The production! So great to see all the work coming together, and the sense of pride the children had in themselves afterwards. Artsplash was so fun. It was a really huge group this year - over 40 children! I am very grateful to Ella for her help in running it with me. The evening went off without a hitch. Manuka's trips to Tawatawa to do tree planting has been fab. It's great for the kids to be engaged with local initiatives. Māori language month has been great. Grateful to everyone for their openness to add more to their plates in an already busy term. Speech comp. Every single student gets to experience success in presenting their speech in class and two of our students placed first at Mount Cook. I really like PRIME maths.
- Production and swimming were both amazing - every single child in the class got to experience success in both areas and they had lots of fun doing it. I loved the two week swimming block because the students came such a long way in that time. I have seen some real strides in kids' learning this term, especially around reading and writing which is hugely rewarding. I also loved judging speeches, that was a really cool way to be involved in the senior school a little bit.



- The production - such an amazing experience for all. Proud to be part of something so positive. How well the new entrants have settled into the class and the wider school over the year so far. AMAZING learning support for the classroom. Teacher aides are great. Claire for classroom release time - she is always chipper!

Onesie Day

My thanks to our senior leadership team of Angelos, Yashar, Keyzelle, Ryan and Lapa who organised our Wellington Free Ambulance Onesie Day event last Friday. It was so good to come together as a school community last Friday to raise funds for such an important service.

My thanks to all of you who helped sending their child to school in their onesie, oodie, PJs or dressed up. We raised an amazing \$531.30. HUGE thanks to everyone who made a donation.



Student Highlights of Term 3

The best things about Term 3 were swimming lessons, touch rugby and production and also Maths. I really like Maths, especially using the text books. I feel like I am getting smarter at Maths. Touch rugby was fun as I liked running in touch rugby. I liked playing and swimming in the warm water at the pool. I liked the costumes and our dancing in the production. - Waleed

I liked writing this term. The coolest thing about writing is being able to make up your own stories. I liked doing our calendar art. I also liked touch rugby. We played great games as part of t]our touch rugby sessions. I liked production especially our costumes. - Charlotte

I liked swimming. I am not afraid of getting into the pool now. I did not like getting out of the pool as it was super cold! I liked playing touch rugby. To avoid being touched in touch rugby you sometimes have to fall to stop defenders getting you. - Etienne

Swimming was definitely the best thing this term. I liked swimming because I learnt to float. The trickiest thing was learning to swim. I liked everything about production. I have loved athletics. I have liked doing the high jump and all the other activities. They are so much fun. - Alan

I liked production. I got to be on stage. That was exciting. I got to be a funny teacher wearing glasses. I liked my costume. I liked seeing all the people in the audience. I liked swimming lessons. I learnt to do new things in the pool. I liked learning to swim. – Vivian

I have really enjoyed playing volleyball in the pool. It was great making up teams to play against each other. I have really liked lunchtime turf games. I like playing football up on the turf. I enjoyed production. I liked clapping along to the music we had in our item. I like it when Molly comes into our class when we are doing writing time. I like having Molly in the class as she reminds me of Riley (my dog). I am looking forward to playing futsal next term. - Luca Devlin

I have enjoyed Maths this term. I like adding up numbers and doing minus problems. I like when we do craft activities. I liked the part I had in production of going on a picnic. - Wolf

I liked the production especially being up on the stage and watching the other performances. I also enjoyed swimming. I really enjoyed playing volleyball in the pool. I have enjoyed touch rugby too. I liked learning to play the game. - Jacob Ching



I quite liked writing this term. I liked writing profiles about famous Maori people. I also liked swimming. I liked our swimming lessons and playing volleyball in our free time. I liked the senior dance when they looked like they were doing a hula. I liked learning more family of facts in Maths this term. I like learning these equations. I have learnt too about division and multiplication. I am looking forward to playing futsal next term. - Jacob Mounsey

First Language Time and athletics have been my most favourite things this term. I liked how working with Cathie this term each Tuesday afternoon was different. - Lara



Chinese Club with Haoyu has been my most favourite thing this term. I loved Haoyu's lunchtime activities. I loved calligraphy. I liked learning about China and learning Mandarin while doing fun things. - Kala

I REALLY enjoyed production. It was so much fun. I loved acting. It was super cool doing a production as a whole school - Esther

I have liked athletics so much. I have liked both high jump and long jump. I like giving everything a go. - Louie Y

I liked making my sword at tech this term. I was proud of the work I had to put into it to complete it. - Rico

I have really enjoyed creating my calendar art. I liked having time to do what I wanted for my calendar cover art. It was great being able to use my imagination. - Ming

I really liked production. Making our Waimaphi Stream wearable art piece and the panels were so much fun to create. - Neva

Production was my most favourite thing this term. Production was a first for me. I got inspiration from Fiji where I come from and from my older sister. - Kathrina

Production! Production! It was so much fun. I liked watching the other classes' items. I really liked acting with my friends. – Zhen

I have so enjoyed working on my passion project this term. I have really enjoyed researching about The Reconquista, which took place over 700 years, beginning around the early 8th century and ending in 1492, during which time the Catholic kingdoms of the Iberian Peninsula fought to reclaim territory from Muslim rule. - Elicia

I so enjoyed production. I liked acting and being on the stage. I liked how we helped to write a pretty funny script with Ray. - Angelos

I loved choir this term. It was a lot of fun as the choice of songs were great. I liked working with Tess and Ella. I liked singing at such a great and big venue as the Michael Fowler Centre. - Ni Lar

Production was the best! It was great being in wearable arts working in a group with my friends. It was so cool to be part of a school event. I have also enjoyed working on my passion project about netball. - Izzy

Bledisloe Cup

My thanks to Charlotte the marketing Manager for New Zealand Rugby who found time to bring the Bledisloe Cup into school on Tuesday afternoon. The seniors loved the opportunity to see the cup and then work with Lucy from Wellington Rugby on some great rugby drills. We hope we will have Lucy back with us in Term 1 next year.



Garden to Table

Last week in Garden to Table we made with Afsana cheesy broccoli bites. We included broccoli, cheddar cheese, garlic, salt, black pepper and paprika. Most of the class said they were good. Ray said they were perfectly bite sized! Sue and Molly agreed that they were delicious. We made our bites in small cupcake trays. We hope that we will get to make pikelets next or something sweet such as small cupcakes. Garden to Table is so much fun as you get to learn new things.

- Livvy, Tandra, Pasha, Willow, and Luca.



This week in Garden to Table we made corn and silverbeet fritters. The silverbeet came from the school garden. Most of the children who tried our fritters enjoyed eating them. Molly also enjoyed a little of Sue's fritter! Cooking is fun. It's a great experience. It's cool to have a break in our learning from just reading, writing and maths. We actually do Maths in cooking when we measure!

- Thea, Naksh and Te Aira

Board Election Results

I am looking forward to working with Juliet and Eric who are both new members of our Board. A warm welcome back to the Board to Andy. Thank you for making yourselves available to contribute towards the governance of our school. My thanks to John and Afnan who have completed their term on the Board. Thank you both for your service to the school. I have really appreciated your contributions to the work of the board and your support of our staff team as we work together to meet our strategic goals.

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



Ruma Tarata have been reviewing the Production in their writing. Here's what they had to say . . .

On Thursday I saw Tarata's performance. I loved Waimāpihi Stream - it was beautiful. Also the tūi. I loved the bit when they did the circle. The crayfish's claws looked like actual claws. The costumes were quite beautiful, especially the tūi. The singing was loud and clear. The acting was amazing because the actions were really clear. This show was really incredible. My favourite song was It's Great Doing Business. - by Archer



On Thursday night at Wellington East we performed in front of hundreds of people. Kids shone bright and clear. Costumes were detailed and glittery. My favourite poem was the Waimāpihi poem because I was on the microphone. The easiest poem was Waimāpihi Stream. The hardest poem was the jail poem. I loved Ngaio's because I liked when some of the kids pretended to eat and drink. - by Tiara



At 6pm on Thursday, Tarata performed in a production. The costumes were terrific!!! The best song HAS to be "Can You Build a House on this Land Please?" I really liked the part where everyone pointed - I felt like doing it too. The acting was AMAZING!!! Overall, the show was superb. It was very informative. After the show I was FLABBERGASTED!!! - by Fatih



On Thursday the production I saw was amazing. I believe it was called Our Neighbourhood. The costumes were sprinkled with fun. I loved when they did the Mind Your Own Business poem. All the kids who had seen it before joined in. I think the Travelling Child pulled it all together. The production altogether was educational and fun. - by Kora





Cultural Connections Celebration - Can you help us?

Every year, here at Te Aro, we have a special cultural celebration. This year we have changed the name of this special day to our **Cultural Connections Celebration**.

This year we will be celebrating on **Tuesday October 21st** and we look forward to acknowledging our wonderful multicultural school community.

We are looking for parents / families who would be available to work with groups of students on **Tuesday Oct 21st between 10.30 - 12.30**. If you can help during this time you would work with two groups of around 15 students for about 30 minutes each, sharing about your culture. This could involve sharing photos, stories, food, folktales or bringing some cultural items to discuss. The aim is to give our students the opportunity to learn about some of the many cultures represented in our school community.

We can always help you with planning your presentation and preparing any resources you may need.

We are open to any suggestions so if you think you'd like to be involved please don't hesitate to contact us for more information.

You can reply to this email, or email Cathie (who is organising the presentations) directly on ccahill@tearo.school.nz , or just pop in and see us!

Thanks for your support for this very special day.

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

Term Dates 2026

Term 1 2026

Wednesday 4 February – Thursday 2 April

Waitangi Day – Friday 6 February

Good Friday – Friday 3 April

Term 2 2026

Monday 20 April – Friday 3 July

Anzac Day – Observed Monday 27 April

King's Birthday – Monday 1 June

Term 3 2026

Monday 20 July – Friday 25 September

Term 4 2026

Monday 12 October – Wed 16 December

(school finishes at 12pm)

Labour Day – Monday 26 October