



Te Aro School

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Te Aro School Newsletter – 4 November 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

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. Shawn has joined Tessa, Mathew and Shara in Rūma Manuka. Ashlee has joined Anna in Rūma Nikau and Addy has joined Serah in Rūma Tawa.

We are hosting our termly mihi whakatau to welcome all our new families this coming Thursday.

Cultural Celebration Day

Many thanks to Cathie who organised our fantastic Cultural Celebration Day last Tuesday. This annual event (previously known as Race Relations Day) is a real highlight of the school year. Students and staff enjoyed the morning learning about some of the different cultures within our school community. I was lucky enough to accompany Group 15 to their two presentations - one was with Paul (Zoe's Dad) and the second was with Somayeh and Mohammad (Alan's Mum and Dad). Paul took us on a trip around the USA where we got to see some very beautiful scenery from across the country. Paul also showed us some fascinating migration maps of the States showing the many groups who have migrated to the States through the 1900s to 2025. Fatih, in my group, was fascinated to visually see the changing migrations from southern and eastern Europe (Italy, Greece) to then Germany and Ireland; and more recently from Mexico, Cuba, China, India and the Philippines. With Somayeh and Mohammad we had a great introduction to Kurdish culture where we danced together and learnt some Kurdish words.



Thank you to everyone who prepared a presentation for our children. It was wonderful listening to the children talking about what they had learnt on their journeys around the world.

What a wonderful Cultural Connections Celebration we had on October 21st! It was exciting to see so many students and staff wearing something special to celebrate who we are and the countries our whānau connect with.



We had a group of wonderful presenters who prepared exciting and engaging sessions from a range of cultures - Indonesia, Pakistan, South Africa, India, Nepal, Hungary, Myanmar, Chile, Mexico, Argentina, China, The Philippines, Germany, Iran/ Kurdistan and America. Each student was lucky to hear two of these great presentations.



Following this each class had an amazing shared lunch of yummy food from around the world. We are so grateful to our school families for preparing this food and also for helping your children to wear clothes that represent their cultural connections.



Our very special thanks go to Sumaira, Afsana, Levi, Meena, Munni, Shara, Khay Mar, Ma, Marisol, Andrea, Guadalupe, Bruno, Hao Yu, Michelle, Andrea Al Barry, Jelena, Miranda, Luthfi, Tri, Someyah, Mohammad and Paul - for all their preparation work leading up to our special morning and their time on the morning itself. Your presentations were outstanding!



We know this wonderful celebration of our diversity helps to raise the level of cultural awareness and understanding of our students and we hope it also helps them to value their own cultural connections. Hopefully these opportunities will motivate and inspire their ongoing learning.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this celebratory occasion! - Cathie



Ending the year

Across the school students have over the past two weeks been undertaking Term 4 assessments in Reading, Writing and Maths. Teachers will be sharing with you in your child's end-of-year report the progress they have made this year in these core subjects. Reports will go home to you on Monday 8 December.

Spring is making its presence felt

The changing Spring weather impacted on our Year 4 - 8 students heading to the Central Zone Athletics competition which was postponed from last week to this coming week. We wish our athletes all the best as they head to Newtown Park on Tuesday.

Teachers have been taking every opportunity, when the weather has allowed, to get their classes outside for PE lessons and reading in the shade.

We have started to learn to play hockey. We learnt in our first lesson how to correctly hold the hockey stick. I have my right hand low on the stick and my left hand is further up the stick. By doing that it means we can control the ball - Esin

When you hit the ball you need to hit it with the flat side of the stick. You need to be on the side of the ball. You can stop the ball with your stick. You have to keep the stick below your waist or else you have to sit out. – Clive



I worked with Sosha and helped him to hold his hockey stick correctly. I have seen people play hockey but I have not played before. You cannot put the stick up above your shoulder. If you do, you have to sit in the shade. I am looking forward to our next lesson. - Mervan

I found it easy to keep the ball beside me and to control it. Sometimes I missed the ball. I was partnered with Noor. We had to remember not putting the stick up too high. - Gasper



Meeting with our Māori students

I met with our fourteen Māori students last week and they shared their thoughts with me about whether they could see that we valued teo ao and te reo Māori at our school. I asked them if visitors to our school would see and hear that we value teo ao and te reo Māori. The students shared these thoughts with me:

- We have rumaki reo mornings and people like the Mayor know we hold these mornings as she visited us for one rumaki reo morning
- We have weekly kapa haka time and the kapa haka group performed at the Aro Fair



- We celebrate Matariki up at school. We cooked a hangi for that night.
- We sing waiata in our class, at our Friday assembly and hui time and at our mihi whakatau.
- We say karakia at the start and end of the day. We say karakia before kai. We say a karakia at our mihi whakatau.
- We welcome people to our school with a mihi whakatau. We welcome new students and their families. We welcome guests to our school with a mihi whakatau. Children and staff do the welcome speeches which they speak in Māori.
- Every Thursday we have a te reo Māori lesson.
- Every Friday we have te reo Māori lessons.
- Our seniors (Years 7 & 8) stay on a marae every second year. We went to Orongomai Marae this year.
- Every morning in our class we learn some new kupu when we start the day.
- You hear Māori spoken at our school.
- You see Māori on our school signs and on our certificates.
- Our Māori language celebration is not just for one week. We celebrate it for 3 - 4 weeks. We try to get our families celebrating too by having things for us to do at home.
- We have a display by the office with the new te reo Māori we are learning.
- I think you can see in the art work that we do value te ao Māori.
- I think we need to keep on doing what we are doing when it comes to welcoming new people and visitors; and learning te reo Māori.
- I think we probably could improve our pronunciation of some Māori words.
- When it comes to learning about the history of Aotearoa I would like to learn more than just about Parihaka.
- On the whole things are pretty good here at Te Aro when it comes to learning te reo Māori.
- Maybe we could have a Māori teacher like we have a Chinese person who teaches Mandarin.

Playing futsal

On Thursday afternoon, after school, I went to watch our Year 5 & 6 futsal team play at Akau Tangi Sports Centre.

I was very proud of Aisha and Nguyen who supported a Miramar team to play as only three of their players made it to the stadium. Aisha and Nguyen shared with me how it took a little time to settle into playing the game as they didn't know the other people they were playing alongside.

It was funny playing for another school. I didn't know the other players. I was a little worried that I might not have enough energy to play our team's game afterwards. - Nguyen

We didn't know what position we were going to play so we randomly chose a position because their coach didn't tell us what to play. Hayden, our coach, tells us what position we are going to play. That's really helpful. – Aisha

We played against Island Bay School. It was an exhausting and competitive game. Island Bay had some strong players. Their goalkeeper was good. We had to work hard on doing lots of passing to get past their team's players. We like playing with our friends. - Cheuk Yin and Luka



I really enjoy kicking the ball and scoring goals. I have scored so many goals that I can't remember how many I have got! Great players help their team mates if they fall. – Skylar



Futsal is fun. I like trying to score goals and trying to run fast to get the ball. Great players help their team. I do two lots of training for futsal. In the second game I scored three times. – Sosha

I like futsal as it is all about having fun even if you lose. I like having the ball passed to me and then trying to score. Sometimes I score and sometimes I don't. Being a good player is about trying your best and sharing the ball around. You can celebrate with your team for trying their hardest even if they didn't win. - Noor

I like playing futsal as I like running to kick the ball to our goal. I like doing our practice sessions with Cindy on the bottom court. – Chibuikem



I love playing futsal. It is exciting to finally get the chance to play in a team. I play in Skylar's team. I am learning to kick the ball into the goal. I have been enjoying kicking and dodging the other team. - Athena

A great game is when overall you have fun. You have to share the ball, pass the ball and play as a team. In our practice sessions I have learnt to kick with both my left foot and my right foot. - Jacob

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



Last week, a group of lucky Yr 3 and 4 students had the opportunity to work with Jyoti and Janhavi Gosavi to create amazing Rangoli patterns. The students showed lots of patience and perseverance as they worked on their creations and were very proud of their finished products.

A big thank you to EKTA, who sponsored the workshop, to Jyoti and Janhavi for their organisation and instruction and to Geeta for her support.

What a wonderful way to celebrate Diwali!



When I was in India I was hearing about Rangoli but this was my first time to make a proper Rangoli pattern. I felt very excited. - Zen

We used the sand colours like the sand on the beach. It was hard to put the colour inside the lines. - Gregory

We made them with glue and a board but you traditionally just make them with powder so you can sweep it up. They look like lotus flowers. - Kora



After the workshop we chose a buddy and we taught them about Rangoli. We started on some posters to see if what we thought we'd taught the year 2 was actually what they had learnt! When I was chosen I felt pretty excited but also lucky. - Lula

I made a poster and what it had on it was information and a drawing of a Rangoli pattern. - Amelia

I found it hard when I was trying to put the powder in the pattern because it kept falling outside. I felt a little excited but nervous when I was chosen. It was very hard because you had to be careful and take your time and not rush. - Terry

The Rangoli workshop was so relaxing and fun. - Astra

Important Dates

November

Thurs 6 Nov – Bee Healthy Dental Van last day

Wed 12 Nov – BOT Meeting

Fri 14 Nov – Mega Gala (fundraiser for Pack the Bus)

Fri 28 Nov – Tuatara's Got Talent

December

Tues 2 Dec – First Language Time celebration

Wed 3 Dec – Te Aro's got Talent

Wed 3 Dec – BOT Meeting

Fri 5 Dec – Beach Ed Worser Bay Y5/6

Tues 9 Dec/Wed 10 Dec – Summer Reading

Thurs 11 Dec – Y8 Leavers' Banquet

Fri 12 Dec – Y8 Leavers' Assembly

Mon 15 Dec – Beach Ed Worser Bay Y7/8

Tues 16 Dec – Big Day In

Wed 17 Dec – 1pm – Last day of term

Term Dates 2025

Term 4 2025

Monday 6 October – Wed 17 December
(school finishes at 1pm)

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