



Te Aro School

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Te Aro School Newsletter – 16 December 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 started with our Te Aro's Got Talent show. What an amazing line up we had of talented students performing for us - magicians, dancers, cheerleaders, pianists, a violinist, actors, and comedians to name but a few. Many thanks to Dezon, Yashar, Angelos and Alfie who organised the event including earlier auditions.



We ended our last full week of the 2025 school year celebrating our Year 8s at their leavers' assembly last Friday. This special event was an opportunity for the school (including parents and whanau) to acknowledge our 29 Year 8 leavers. We wish all of them the very best as they move onto secondary school next year. I am certain that we will be celebrating their ongoing successes in future years.



Last week Cathie was excited to issue summer reading books to 130 students. That's a significant increase in issues from last year's 104 students who took books home to enjoy over the summer. Most of the students were issued with six books each plus a mystery book. Over 910 books in total were issued! Happy summer reading.

On behalf of the staff team, I would like to acknowledge and thank you for the parent and caregiver support we have had over this past school year. Without your support we could not have ensured our students were safely able to cross the drive and The Terrace; that our students could participate in inter-school sports events; or that we were able to enter our sports' teams in after school competitions; taken our classes on trips; and enjoyed Matariki and our biennial school production.

My thanks to Board members Kate, Andy, John, Chris, Afnan, Juliet and Eric for all their hard work over the past year. Nga mihi nui ki a koutou mo koutou awhina.

Thank you to the staff team

I would like to, in this final newsletter of the year, acknowledge our teaching team of Anna, Ray, Cathie, Kristin, Mathew, Tessa, Meena, Serah, Ella, Eva, Katie, Levi, Daphne, Claire, and Afsana who worked extremely hard throughout the year.

My thanks to the leadership team of Anna and Ray who have provided ongoing leadership across the school. Me te mihi nui mo a koutou manaakitanga. Anna will step down from the leadership team at the end of this year after being one of our Deputy Principals for the past twelve years. I am grateful for Anna's commitment to our school values of manaakitanga and whanaungatanga - the building of and the maintaining of relationships - the absolute foundations of our school.

My thanks to Cathie for the committed work she undertakes to meet the needs of our culturally and linguistically diverse learners and for running our library with support from Jo.

My thanks to Katie, who as our school's learning support coordinator, works across the school to support teachers and support staff to meet the diverse needs of our students with additional learning, social, behavioural, health and physical needs.

I am grateful to our team of support staff that has included Adam, Miranda, Ella, Sumaia, Lola, Jack, Bailey, Wayne, Ada and Somayeh. My thanks to this fabulous team of teacher aides who have been so flexible, so adaptable, and so hard working. They truly made a real difference to so many of our students over the course of this year.

Thanks to Hemi, Mathew and Kristin for their support of kapa haka across the school.

Thanks to Mathew and Ray for their organisational skills that ensured our students could participate in local sporting events including extra- curricular ones such as touch rugby, floorball, basketball, netball, and futsal.

Thanks to Tessa for providing leadership in the teaching of te reo and tikanga Māori across the school.

Thanks to Anna and Serah for mentoring our beginning teachers Ella and Eva. Congratulations to Ella and Eva on becoming registered teachers after completing their second year of teaching.

Thanks to Ray for being the staff representatives on the Board of Trustees.

Thanks to Tessa for being the teachers' NZEI representative and Ella for being the support staff's NZEI representative.

Thanks to Levi and Daphne for providing release cover to teachers across the school this year.

Many thanks to Claire, Sue and Fiona who have this year supported our Garden to Table programme.

A great deal of thanks to Georgie and Jo who run such a well organised office and are both such welcoming faces of the school for all new families and visitors to the school.

Thanks to Graham, our caretaker who has ensured our school environment is cared for. Thanks also to Sonia and Eugene who have undertaken groundwork alongside Graham. Finally, thanks to Satwinder and Dilpreet for the cleaning work they have undertaken across the school with Graham.

Farewells this week

This week we farewell Kirsty Gardner from our school community. Kirsty has been based at our school over the past two years as an itinerant Resource Teacher of Literacy (RTLit). Kirsty's work across the cluster of inner-city Wellington schools and schools in the northern suburbs will be terribly missed as she was an important literacy resource and support for students who were struggling to read and write. The RTLit service is to be disestablished at the end of this school year. We wish Kirsty all the best for 2026.

With Anna moving to our classroom teacher role next year and having no beginning teachers in 2026 we say goodbye to Levi and Daphne. We thank them both for the work they have undertaken across the school.

We are also this week farewelling Bailey, Wayne, Ada and Somayah from our support staff team. We wish all of them the very best for 2026. Ella Flannery, also a member of our support staff team, is taking up a Ministry of Education internship as an educational psychologist in 2026. We know that she will make valuable contributions to the learning support team she will join.

To our students and families who are leaving our school community at the end of this year we wish you all the best for 2026. At our Year 8 leavers' assembly I acknowledged the students and their whānau who were attending their last Te Aro event. This group included Alfie, Alex, Campbell, David, Dezon, Emme, Hongming, Jeremy, Jixuan, Kathrina, Keyzelle, Lapa Nong, Louie, Ryan, Sophie, Veer and Yashar. We wish all our leavers and their whānau all the very best for 2026.

2026 is just around the corner

We are starting the new year with the following class compositions:

Serah will once again be teaching our Year 1 students in Rūma Tawa.

Moana, a new member to our teaching team, will be teaching a Year 2 class in Rūma Kauri.

Hannah, our new Deputy Principal, will be teaching in Rūma Ngaio next door to Kristin. Hannah will be leading the teachers who are teaching in Years 1 - 3.

Kristin will be teaching a Year 2 & 3 class in Rūma Tarata next door to Hannah.

Tessa, Afsana and Mathew will teach our Year 4, 5 & 6 students in Rūma Manuka and Rūma Nikau. I am grateful to Mathew who is stepping up to be the team leader of our middle school (Years 4 - 6).

Ray and Meena will teach our Year 7 & 8 students in Rūma Pohutukawa. Anna will be working in Rūma Pohutukawa on Thursday providing leadership release for Ray.

Katie will continue to provide learning support across the school on the three days she will be working each week. She will once again be working Monday - Wednesday.

Cathie will continue to support our English language learners across the school. She will once again be working Monday – Thursday.

Anna will be our classroom release teacher working across the school.

The following photos were taken last Wednesday when children met with their 2026 teachers.





Festive wishes

Nga mihi o te Kirihimete me te tau Hou. Kua tae mai ra nga haraei. Wishing you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a happy New year. Happy holidays.



We look forward to seeing you back at school on **Wednesday 4 February 2026**.

Kake tonu Te Aro. Ever Upwards Te Aro.

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou,

Sue



At the Year 8 Leavers' banquet last Thursday, several students gave speeches. Here is part of Zack's one . .

Kia ora koutou katoa

Thank you all for being here tonight as we celebrate the end of our Year 8 journey at Te Aro School. It feels a little unreal to be standing here – excited about what's next, but also looking back on all the memories we've made in this place that has been our second home for so many years.

To our teachers: thank you.

You haven't just taught us maths, writing or how to analyse texts – you've taught us how to be curious, to ask big questions, to work together, and to believe in ourselves. You've pushed us when we needed a challenge, supported us when things felt tough, and celebrated every success, big or small. Each of you has shaped us in a different way, and we're really grateful for the time, energy and patience you've given us.

A huge thank-you as well to everyone who works behind the scenes – the teacher aides, office staff, and everyone who keeps Te Aro School running smoothly. You might not always be front and centre, but you've made a big difference in our day-to-day lives.

And finally, to Te Aro School itself: thank you for being a place where we could try new things, make mistakes, make friends, and figure out who we are. This school has been part of our lives for so long that it feels strange to think about leaving – but also exciting to imagine what comes next.

As we move on to high school, I hope we all carry the things we learned here – kindness, confidence, curiosity, and the courage to try – even when things feel new or a bit scary.

So here's to our teachers, our families, and to all of us – the Te Aro School Year 8s.

Thank you for everything.

Zack Aden



Important Dates

December

Mon 15 Dec - Beach Ed Worsler 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)

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 1pm)

Labour Day – Monday 26 October