



Te Aro School

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Te Aro School Newsletter – 2 March 2026

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 warm welcome.

A very warm welcome to Romi, Rayshiva, Juno, Flo and Muhong who recently joined our school community. Rayshiva and Juno have joined Serah in Rūma Tawa. Flo has joined Kristin in Ruma Tarata. Romi and Muhong have joined Afsana and Tessa in Rūma Manuka.

Walking the Eastern Walkway

On Wednesday 25 February our years 4-8 students took part in an EOTC trip along the Eastern Walkway. The walk began at Tarakena Bay and students were collected by coach later that afternoon at Seatoun Beach. The weather was spectacular and along the trip the students enjoyed coastal native bush and sweeping views of the harbour. Along the way, they had the opportunity to see a number of historical sites, including Atatürk Memorial, World War I and World War II bunkers, ancient Pā sites, Barrett Reef (where the Wahine first struck rocks during the 1968 disaster). The walk ended at Seatoun Beach, traditionally recognised as the landing place of the great Polynesian explorer Kupe when he first arrived in Aotearoa New Zealand.



I found the stairs hard and the second mountain which was steeper than the first. The views were beautiful. You could see the sea and the sky. They looked like they were blending together. It was hot, very hot walking. I wish we'd been able to swim and to have shade at the park. The hour at the park was long enough. – Junyi



I enjoyed walking up hundreds of steps. We could see Mānuka ahead of us at the start of the walk. It was tiring but also fun out walking. We visited Atatürk Memorial. It was the first time I'd been there. Ray talked to us about the history of the memorial. I liked going into the bunker on the second hill. I liked the murals spray painted on bunker walls. There was so much graffiti on the walls. Ray gave us a fright poking his head into the bunker. It was fun playing at the park in Seatoun. – Eloise



We walked 5km on Wednesday. It was a very long walk. It was one of the longest walk I have ever done. Eating my Mum's chocolate helped me to keep walking. I saw a weta when we were walking. I saw birds in the sky. I'm sure I saw an eagle. – Minghe

I really liked the walk. I liked learning about all the sites – the Memorial and the bunkers and the Pā. I wish we could've swum. I liked the parts of the walk where we walked in the shade of the trees. – Kala



I saw several bunkers. I didn't go into them. I saw the Interislander. I saw a weta when we walked through some bush. I enjoyed arriving at the playground and the walk being over. I liked the length of the walk – not too long and not too short. – Kora



I loved the walk. It wasn't too difficult. It was only 5km. I liked learning about the history of the area. I wish I'd brought a bigger drink bottle of water. I liked messing around at the end of the walk. I wish we'd been able to swim at the end of the walk. It would've been good to jump off the wharf. – Georgie

Tuatara Hui

Last Friday we presented at the Tuatara hui. It was our very first time that we were hui presenters. Kristin helped us plan our script. We took turns speaking. We felt shy and happy mixed together. We hope we get to present again. Being chosen to be a presenter was really special as it was the first hui of the year and the first time we spoke at the hui. - Meme, Archer and Fatih

Futsal after school

I like shooting, passing, and playing with Salman. We play well together. We have to keep practising a lot here at school, up on the turf and at home. Rodgers' Dad is our coach. I really like our games after school on a Friday. – Jack

I like playing futsal. I scored five goals. My team's coach is my Dad. He's a good coach. He tells me to shoot if I have the ball. Salman also scored. On Thursdays we have a practice session at school. Playing futsal is fun because I can dribble. – Rodgers

I like practising with my team. I like kicking the ball and scoring. I'm in a Te Aro School team. We won our game against the red team. – Salman

Tuakana Teina

On a Thursday afternoon some of our senior students work with some of our junior students as tuakana-teina. The tuakana-teina relationship provides a model for having learning buddies here at school. An older or more expert tuakana helps and guides a younger or less expert teina. In a learning environment the tuakana-teina roles may be reversed at any time. In observing the students with their buddies last week, Serah's teina taught their tuakana how to use the new Numicon maths materials that they use in the junior school.

I enjoyed reading with the big students. They read me a story when we were in the library. It was a fun story. I really hope I get to read with my buddy again. – Hazel



I liked going to the library and reading with the big children. I liked the big students reading to me. I also liked showing the maths we do in my class. I hope we do it all again soon. – Cece



I liked Numicon maths with my two older buddies. They came and worked in my class. We made a number line together. They learnt how to do numicon maths quickly. I also liked reading with them in the library. – Ivy

Swimming lessons at the Aquatic Centre

I liked how we wore life jackets. When I first put it on and I got into the pool I felt a little cold. Then I warmed up as I moved in the water. Lying on my back the life jacket kept me up and floating. On my back I learnt to move my legs and swim like an arrow squid. - Alan



On Friday my group learnt to swim wearing a life jacket. The pool was quite deep and quite cold. This was the first time I had floated wearing a life jacket. I was a little nervous at first. I swam close to the edge of the pool. I finally made it out into the pool to join the others in my group. I was proud of myself for giving it all a go in my lesson. - Etienne

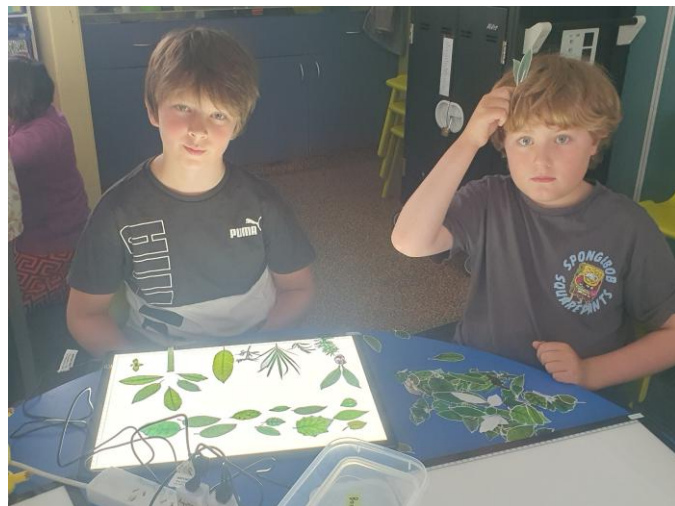
I really liked being in the inflatable boat on Friday at the pool. We wore life jackets. We were learning to get on board the boat without tipping over. There were six of us on board the boat. - Zoya

I really liked kayaking this week. We learnt to go backwards in our kayaks. I like being in the deep end of the big pool. We tipped out of our kayaks. Getting back into our kayak was a challenge but I managed it. I like having swimming lessons with my friends. - Thea

Making art with Gabby

Dr Gabby O'Connor is a Wellington based artist with a background in science communication. She regularly collaborates with students, scientists and communities to create large-scale artworks in galleries and public spaces. Gabby has taught art to thousands of young people in schools, universities and galleries over the past 24 years. She is currently exhibiting in the light boxes on Courtenay Place. You can find out more and watch a video about the project [here](#).

Before creating their own pieces of artwork students learnt about the plants of Wellington Harbour - specifically what used to grow near Te Matapihi ki Te Ao Nui and our kura. Gabby shared different perspectives based on her research with mana whenua and ecologists. The class then used images of native leaves to make pictures and patterns on illuminated lightboxes. The artworks were photographed for inclusion in the exhibition and will be shared digitally with our Year 4 students and their classes.



I worked with Eleanor. We made a pattern using different shaped leaves and plants. I liked when we made a tree from all the leaves. I liked using our light box and when we turned off the lights in the classroom. I might go with my Mum to see our artwork in the new library. – Taya



I worked with Gregory to make leaf patterns and pictures from all the leaves Gabby gave us to use on our light box. Gabby wanted us to create pictures for the new library in the city. I am excited that our artwork will be displayed in the new library. Using the light boxes was an easy way to make beautiful artwork. - Minghe



I worked with my brother Hugo. We made trees using leaves and pictures of grasses which we used to make tree trunks and then branches. Gabby wanted us to make a forest using only plant images. I am excited to go down to the library when it opens to see our work on display. - Nico

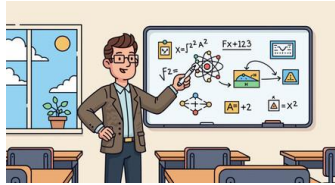
I am looking forward to the year ahead. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or queries that you have about the school or feedback which you would like to share with me.

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou,
Sue



Maths Information Evening

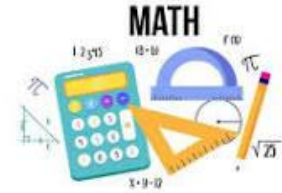
Join us at school for a Maths Information Evening



Tuesday 17 March

Rūma Pōhutukawa

6.00pm -7.00pm



We will share the resources we are using in school to teach maths, explain our upcoming mathsathon fundraiser and also share some simple ways to help support your child with maths at home.

Childcare will be provided on the night.

A fundraiser
Better Together

22 March at Meow 3PM-5PM
Let's come together for a school in need!
Live music, immaculate vibes, new friends,
manaakitanga
Tickets at Meow.nz



Rūma Ngaio have been working on descriptive writing. Here is a wonderful story retold by Meme and Mervan.

An astronomical decade ago in ancient China the Mini village was poor because every year at the end of summer a horrible monster called Nian pounded into the empty village.

One year an old man went to an old woman's house and knocked on the old door and it opened and a boy and a girl popped out. He asked, "could I please have some food?" They giggled "yes" and led him to his and her grandma. She whispered, "come with us, you don't want to be eaten by Nian". His eyes lit up when he heard the name Nian.

The grandma said, "Oh you don't need to be scared of Nian. I have things to keep him away forever. Do you want to help us?"

"Yes, I do", he answered.

That day he helped them until it was nearly nightfall. When they were finished they heard rumbling. It was Nian but when he saw the colour red and fire it made him shiver and he fled.

By Meme Griffiths, year 3



A long time ago in China there was a poor village. Every year a monster called Nian came. He could break through doors. Everyone was gone except one family was still packing and then an old man came and he gave three secret weapons. Fireworks, lanterns and red banners. They worked all day. After ten hours they finished. They waited. The old man saw Nian. Nian saw the red and he ran and never came back.

By Mervan Amjad, year 3

Important Dates

March	April
Tues 3 March – Tuatara - hikoi locally	Thurs 2 April Last day of term 1
Tues 10 March – Tuatara - hikoi locally	Mon 20 April First day of term 2
Tues 17 March – Tuatara - hikoi locally <i>Postponement Day</i> Maths Information Evening – 6-7pm	Fri 24 April Teacher Only Day – school closed for tuition
Wed 18 March – Kekenō 'Explore' VR workshop in school PM	Mon 27 April Anzac Day observed – school closed for tuition
Thurs 26 March – Tuatara EOTC – Te Matapihi o te Ao	
Tues 31 March – Rūmaki reo	

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

Teacher Only Day – Friday 24 April

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