



Te Aro School

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Te Aro School Newsletter – 17 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 Yuya from Kagawa University in Japan. Yuya is studying education. He is spending three weeks at our school as he is interested to learn how our school welcomes students from overseas and works to meet their diverse needs.

Last week Serah welcomed Violet to Rūma Tawa.

Aro Fair

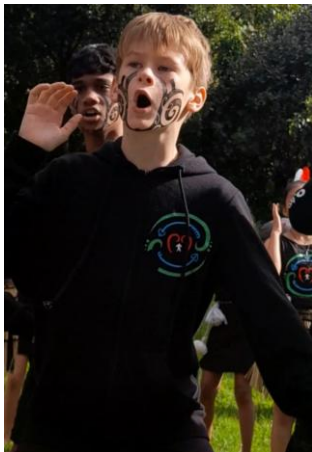
Thankfully Friday's wet weather disappeared and Saturday was a beautiful day for the Aro Fair. Many thanks to the great team of Friends of Te Aro who sizzled sausages and cooked falafel, sold delicious homebaking and our school honey. Thanks too to all of you who bought tickets in our amazing lego raffle. We also want to offer our gratitude to Metro New World and Woolworths Lambton Quay for their generous donations of food for us to sell on the day - and to Pru and Ruth for organising these. Many thanks to Jess, Anna, Michael, Graham and Jo for looking out all the important equipment and resources on Friday afternoon ready for fair day, and to Ruth for all her organisation and coordination of the event.



Once again our kapa haka group gave a fantastic performance to open the fair on Saturday morning. My thanks to Kristin, Hemi and Mathew for supporting the group leading up to Saturday and on the actual day.



I think we did pretty well for our second performance of the year. Our first song wasn't our best as we were still warming up our voices. Overall though we did well. I think the crowd liked our performance. It was great when Dezon, Alfie and some of our Year 4 and 5 students joined us at the end. – Archie



I really enjoyed the karanga I did with Georgie. Hemi and Mathew tutored us. My family said I was good but that I needed to smile more. – Harper



I loved our kapa haka performance on Saturday. My favourite part was performing the karanga with Harper. We learnt the karanga over six days! Our performance moved people to tears. Some of our old year 8s were reminded of their leavers' assembly from last year. We also did a really good job with our poi work. - Georgie

On the search for Waimapihi our local stream

Last Tuesday our junior classes (Tuatara whanau) headed out to locate our local awa Waimapihi which runs down the valley and under Aro Street before heading out to sea. The children went in search of the stream. They could hear it flowing down towards the sea when they listened to it by the grates in Aro Park. Walking down Aro Street you can see paint on the road which shows you where the stream would have flowed had it been above ground.



Below the road the stream flows through pipes. Ask your tamariki to take you on a walk through Aro Park to hear Waimapihi.



Many thanks to the number of parents who have supported our students on these outings. We couldn't do trips like this without your support to enable our tamariki to get the most out of the trips and be safe while out in public.

Adrenalin Forest

On Monday our Year 7 & 8 students spent the day at Adrenalin Forest. Adrenalin Forest is a multi-level aerial obstacle course in Porirua featuring tree-to-tree bridges, swinging obstacles, and high-speed flying foxes. Participants progress through six levels, starting low to the ground and reaching heights of up to 31 metres, testing both physical agility and mental courage.



Level 6 began with a cargo net. It wobbled a lot and my cables kept getting stuck in the net. After getting through the net I had to climb a high ladder before then getting across a tight rope. It also wobbled and swayed. I made it to the zip line. I travelled super fast on the zip line. It was awesome! Leo was the only other person to reach level 6. It was my first time visiting Adrenalin Forest. I was so pleased my Mum got to see me climbing. She was so proud of me! - Izzy



I was proud of myself and what I managed to do. My goal was to finish level 1. I got there powering through Level 1, then 2A, then 2B and then I began Level 3. Meena and Ray helped me to get through the course by encouraging me. Adrenalin Forest is not as scary as you think it might be. Once you were climbing and not waiting in line it was fine. - Pia



I'd never been to Adrenalin Forest. Parts of Level 3 were challenging, especially part of the course where you had to pull yourself along. I had to use my stomach muscles and my arms. I was a little nervous to begin with but then I just went for it! - Matai



I joined the seniors the next day when they started to write about their climbing experiences. Here's some snippets of their 'moment in time' writing. I look forward to sharing some of their published pieces once they finish writing them.



Kauti shared: I clutched the pulley. I let go. I zoomed down the flying fox. Air flew past me. The lion inside of me started to roar.



Shaurya wrote: I stood by the tight rope. My body is trembling a little. I rethought my life decisions. After lots of intense thinking I made up my mind to give it a go.

Kala wrote: My heart pounded. I was gripping so hard I thought my fingers might fall off. The board shook and my head swirled with self doubt.



Georgie wrote: I clenched the cold metal wire. I heard children screeching like a flock of noisy birds. I could smell the musty gloves as I wiped sticky sweat from my forehead. I felt a surge of anticipation and excitement rush through my trembling body. I shuffled my feet impatiently as the wooden ledge creaked under my weight. I watched Ray on a nearby platform. I chuckled to myself.

Archie shared: I stepped off the platform. I expected my harness to tighten against me with the force of my weight. My heart leapt as I thought the harness had broken. I was sure I was going to plummet to my death. At that moment, my mind flooded with thoughts, many of them were negative.



Art workshop

Last Tuesday the teaching team worked with Matt Gillies, an arts specialist from the City Gallery. Matt led us through an art workshop where we got to work with concrete. Matt and other members of the gallery's team are going to work with all our classes during Term 2. I'm looking forward to seeing the body of work the children make with Matt next term.



New students to Te Aro School

I caught up with some of the students who joined our school community this term. They shared these thoughts with me.

I have come from a private Jewish day school in Oakland, California. At my school we shared the same religion. As soon as we move into middle school we start moving around classes as you would do in a high school here in New Zealand. Here in New Zealand you learn so much more about the indigenous people of New Zealand. Back home I didn't learn much about native Americans. – Kat

In France we start school at 8.00am and finish at 5.00pm. It's a long day! In France we change classrooms every hour. One hour of Maths. One hour of French. One hour of English. I like how here at Te Aro we don't change classrooms and that we don't have to carry all our things in our bags. In France we don't have tubs to store our things and instead we carry everything we need at school around in our bags. We can carry 7kg of things around. – Abel

I like being at school here in New Zealand and in Tuscany more than being at school back in America. When I leave Te Aro I am going back to school in Tuscany. I have made friends really quickly at Te Aro. I like the school library here and that we have fish in our class. I like how Tessa plans to teach us and the activities she plans for us to do. I like how we learn to cook at school and bee keeping. I liked the walk we did along the Eastern Walkway. We don't do walks like that in Kentucky. – Jericho

In my old school we couldn't move about like we do at Te Aro. Our school was underground and it had long halls. We had one big room to do PE in. In my old school students sat at single desks. I had different teachers for different subjects. The teachers are nice at Te Aro and are less strict. You can talk to them if you feel down. – Joy

Te Aro School is just different from my old school. I like how we have three breaks throughout the day at Te Aro. I like how there is a dog at school. I like how the teachers are very clear with their instructions. – Iris

At my school in the States I learnt about my religion. Everyone at my old school was Jewish. I've never been to a public school before. I have enjoyed being at Te Aro as the school is surrounded in nature. Back home it is not like that. I didn't expect to work with bees. It has been pretty easy to make friends here at Te Aro. I'm in a competitive football team back home and I miss that. - Selah

I like reading and playing basketball here at Te Aro. In Indonesia schools start at 7.00am and we finish at 1.00pm. I like the music here at Te Aro and singing the school songs with my little brother. – Romi

There are lots of things I wouldn't be able to do back in Vanuatu. We would have excursions but not as frequently as we do here at Te Aro - swimming, the walk we did along the walkway, and going to technicraft each week. We had different teachers for different subjects. We had French lessons three times a week. The school had children from kindergarten age through to high school. I was nervous about coming back to New Zealand but Frida, who used to be here at Te Aro, introduced Juno and I to new friends. – Athena

In Vanuatu we followed the Australian curriculum. We worked through modules and had tests once a fortnight. I have really liked the art we have been doing. I have really liked swimming. Maths is now quite fun. I'd say to someone coming from Vanuatu to bring a jersey to school as it is much colder here and don't worry you will make new friends. It's new for me being in the same class as my sister Athena. - Juno

Professional Learning Group

At least twice a term I meet with a small group of principals as part of a professional learning group. We meet here at Te Aro for a focussed three hours. Our sessions are facilitated by Mark Sweeney. Our group, over the past twelve months, has grown from the core inner city primary schools' principals from Clyde Quay, Thorndon, Sacred Heart, Mt Cook and Te Aro to now include principals from Island Bay, Houghton Valley and Clifton Terrace. We share resources, we exchange best practices, we give and seek support from each other, and we problem solve. This collaboration fosters a sense of community and for me personally it has strengthened my leadership through collaboration and shared learning. In our session this week we reflected on our leadership strengths having undertaken the Langley Strengths Profile. Dropping out of this work we will each set individual goals for the year.

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



Are you able to support us collecting food for the DCM food bank?

We are the library and culture leadership team and we need your support. One of our responsibilities is to organise events for the whole school community to participate in.

From **Monday 23rd March (next week) - Monday 30 March** we are collecting non-perishable food items for the food bank at DCM. DCM (formerly Downtown Community Ministry) is a social service organisation in central Wellington that supports people to find housing and food. We'd like to collect non-perishable food items to help people put food on the table for their families.

Please could you donate one of these items?

tinned food	breakfast cereals	pasta	biscuits
Crackers	instant noodles	tea	instant coffee
Milo	pasta sauces	instant noodles	muesli bars

Breakfast spreads including jams, peanut butter, vegemite, marmite

You can leave your donations in the boxes that will be placed by Sue's office.

Thank you for your support.

- Jay, Juno, Abel, Danuthi, Josie and Ni Lar





Here are some recounts of the recent Waimapihi trip written by some students from Rūma Kauri.

We went past Aro Valley preschool. We looked at some murals. We saw Queen Lola's house.

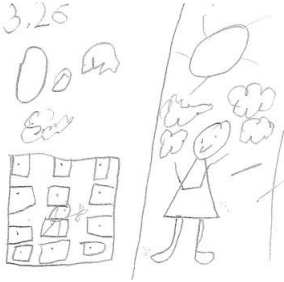
By Anezka, year 2

We saw Aro Valley preschool.
We saw the river fountain.
We walked and walked.



By David, year 2

10.3.26



We sat down on the concrete. I saw people. We saw Queen Lola.

By Billie-Rose, year 2



We went for a tour around. We went to the great river grate so we can hear the water. Then we saw a mural. We looked at the details. Then we went back to school.

By Anya, year 2

I see paintings. I listen to the water. I see the rainbow.

By Drishiv, year 2



Important Dates

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

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