

## Diary Dates

### Coming Up . . .

- Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> June 3<sup>rd</sup> Instalment of School Accounts Due
- Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> June Technology Year 7
- Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June Working Bee 9am-12noon
- Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June Kapa Haka 3.40pm
- Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> June Technology Year 7
- Friday 15<sup>th</sup> June Matariki School Performance 9.50am T2 high school
- Friday 15<sup>th</sup> June 5.15pm Hakari T2 high school
- Monday 18<sup>th</sup> June Kapa Haka 3.40pm

### Working Bee



Please check below for your eldest child's name to attend this working bee. Contact the office with any queries.

### Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June 9am – 12noon

Blake Braddock	Neriah Hopoi
Sophie Denton	Anusha Kamanahalli
Mahi Kalidas	Cormac McNatty
Bethany King	Hunter Macaulay
Papai Le	Cameron McAulay
Olive Lourie	Sophia Mathieson
Fraser Maggs	Fletcher McGrath
Nicola Jury	Jude McLennan-Deans
Thea Martin	Zander McFarlane
Blake Mayhem	Sophie McPherson
Vanya McCurdy	Madhavan Kiridharan
Demetri Mackey- Hawkins	



## This Week

### Freedom and Responsibility

By Sharon Udy – Tōtara Teacher - Primary

I have heard two criticisms of the Montessori philosophy from people who have only a fleeting glimpse of it in action (or have never seen it at all!). The first is “it’s too structured - there’s no creativity” and the other is “there’s not enough structure - the children do whatever they want!” Obviously, both of these cannot be true.

Within each akomanga (classroom), the kaiārahi (guide or teacher) is constantly striving for a balance between freedom and responsibility. Doctor Maria Montessori wrote that, “Young people must have enough freedom to allow them to act on individual initiative. But in order that individual action should be free and useful at the same time it must be restricted with certain limits and rules that give the necessary guidance”. Montessori, M. (1994). From Childhood To Adolescence, Oxford: Clio Press, p.73.

Real freedom, in the Montessori context, comes from within the child. It manifests through engaging with the environment and from concentrating deeply on self-chosen work. When a child is following her or his passion and is able to work without interruption, the child develops great self-discipline. Maria Montessori used the term ‘normalisation’ to describe this transformation based on intense concentration.

As kaiārahi, or guides, we are responsible for helping all of our tamariki to make wise choices. We give Grace and Courtesy lessons to establish the limits within our community and have conversations with individuals and groups about making choices for the common good - not just for ourselves. As an example of this, tamariki in the Montessori environment do not have assigned seats. Rather, they choose each day - sometimes several times a day - where they would like to sit and work. This encompasses many freedoms: to sit where they would like - at a table or at a mat on the floor; to choose with whom they sit or whether they will sit alone. Along with this comes several responsibilities: to sit at an appropriate place (eg. enough space for the materials he/she chooses); if working with others, to choose those who will not distract her/him; to ensure he/she does not distract others.

As our tamariki become older and move through the different levels of our kura (school), they experience more freedom and more responsibility. Just like the materials provided for them, the expectations placed upon tamariki are different according to the characteristics and the needs of their particular stage of development.

As mātua me kaitiaki (parents and caregivers) we must also consider what freedoms and responsibilities our tamariki are ready for. At home, just as at kura, some tamariki will be ready for more freedom and more responsibility at an earlier age than others. For this delicate balancing act, Dr Montessori offered the following advice: “To let the child ‘do as he likes,’ when he has not yet developed any powers of control, is to betray the idea of freedom.” Montessori, M. (1964) The Absorbent Mind. Wheaton, IL: Theosophical Press, p. 205.



Sharon has been a teacher at Wā Ora since 2008 having graduated with a Montessori Diploma in 2007. In 2010 she furthered her study with an AMI Diploma. Sharon loves the respectful and vibrant classroom communities at Wā Ora and the family involvement. While life is reasonably busy with two young ones Sharon does enjoy reading, listening to music, playing the guitar badly and baking reasonably well in her odd free moments!

**Sports Results****Wā Ora Badminton (previous week's)**

Div 4 Junior Girls vs Wainui 6-0

Div 3 Senior Boys vs Naenae College 4-2

**Wā Ora Basketball**Juniors (Year 9-10s) vs St Bernards 2  
92-36

Miniball (Year 5-6s) vs Korounui 20-18

Tini ball (Year 3-4s) vs Kelson 22-2

**Congratulations**

Congratulations to Korey Langridge and Oscar Strickland (both in Kawakawa) on their participation in the Junior Boys, 3 km event at the CSW Cross Country Champs. Oscar completed in 11m 26s (a very impressive time) and Korey crossed despite difficulties with asthma.

**Swimming Sports**

This year's swim sports were a fun event that started with races and finished with a community splash around before heading back to school.

Special thanks to parents Connie, Jenni and Nadine for their help with time keeping and recording on the day. Special thanks also to the Kawakawa students, without whom we could not have had our sports - timekeepers, race starters, first aid, marshalling, support guards and photographer.

**Another Reminder to Drive Safely**

Following another reported incident of unsafe driving on Waddington Drive, please ensure you drive slowly near the school, when dropping off and collecting your children. This will assist in keeping our community safe.

**Scholastics Books**

Scholastic book orders are due back on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> June. If you would like to place an order you can either do this online using your credit card or you can complete the paper order form (inside the back page) and place in the purple box between the staffroom door and the fish tank. Please remember NO CASH - cheque only ☺

**Save the date!****The Great Wā Ora Quiz Night & Auction - Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September**

The PTA wants to raise \$5-\$10K to support our students and teachers to develop their outdoor environments, so we're holding *The Great Wā Ora Quiz Night and Auction*. . . with your help!

Are you/do you know a business owner in the Hutt City region? We are seeking sponsors for our event, who would gain valuable exposure for their business.

Are you/do you know someone, who could donate auction items?

Please see the attached flyers with all the info. Have a look and send them on to friends and family, who would love to get involved. More information about the quiz night is coming out later this month, but for now, mark Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September in your diary and help us find sponsors and auction donations!! Let's do this!

**Matariki Programme**

Our celebrations are next Friday and all whānau are warmly invited to attend our daytime performance and evening hākari. The performance runs from 10am – 11am at the high school (timetable attached to this email) followed by a shared lunch for area school whānau (at the high school) and preschool shared lunches in their classes. In the evening we will come together again to share a meal, also at the high school. Please bring a (labelled with ingredients) dish of significance to share, as well as your personal crockery, cutlery, glassware and non-alcoholic beverage.

**Bunny Needs a Home**

We need to rehome our bunny asap due to moving house shortly. He is approximately 7 years old and called Lola (we were told he was a girl originally!). He has been de-sexed and would love to live out his days somewhere nice and warm with kind hearted people. He comes with a bunny cage (not pretty but insulated!) and plenty of straw, hay and pellets. We would of course give a full handover on his care. Please contact Charlie on 027 568 6345.

**Car For Sale**

1996 Toyota Rav 4 (3 door) in neat and tidy condition for age and only 144,600KMs. Runs great, has full service history for the past 7 years. Brand new battery, 4 new tyres within the last two years, rego till April 2019, WOF till Nov 2018. \$3,750. Please contact [allyson@waora.school.nz](mailto:allyson@waora.school.nz).

**Shoe Clinic Supports Wā Ora**

Did you know that for every pair of shoes you purchase from Lower Hutt's Shoe Clinic, Wā Ora receives \$10 and the purchaser receives either a New Balance backpack or a \$10 discount off the pair of shoes. Simply let the store staff your school is Wā Ora. Shoe Clinic is located at 194 High Street Lower Hutt.

**Order your Real Butties now!**

Year 11 Enterprise group 'Real Butties' are selling their real butties on Friday at lunch time. Priced at \$4 and using free range eggs, you can pre-order for a Friday lunchtime delivery by emailing [realbutties@gmail.com](mailto:realbutties@gmail.com).

**Pumpkin Soup Fundraiser**

Don't forget to get your pumpkin soup (\$3), bread - GF, garlic or plain (\$2) and lemonade (\$1.50) this Wednesday playtime from the Tōtara kitchen.