

Diary Dates

Coming Up . . .

- Wednesday 5th September dental van
- Wednesday 5th September parent education evening 7.30pm Tāwari
- Wednesday 5th–Friday 7th September Kawakawa service camp (1st wave)
- Friday 7th September Playgroup morning tea 9am at Benedicts Cafe
- Wednesday 12th–Friday 14th September Kawakawa service camp (2nd wave)
- Wednesday 12th September dental van here
- Friday 14th September 6-9 Zelandia Trip
- Monday 17th September STAFF ONLY DAY. PRESCHOOL, PRIMARY AND HIGH SCHOOL CLOSED

Staff only day

Monday 17th September

**NO SCHOOL
TEACHER ONLY DAY
MONDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER**

Just a reminder that Wā Ora preschool, primary and high schools will be closed on Monday 17th September for a staff professional development day. School will be re-open as normal the day after on Tuesday 18th September.

Parent Education Evening this Wednesday–RSVP now!



This Week

The importance of community

By Ava Szabo –Principal

I googled ‘the importance of community’ today and came up with 474,000,000 references. Not insignificant and probably a reflection on our need as a society to belong, reach out and find our people and place in our world.

This is a subject dear to my heart and I know, so important to us all. Many of you will be part of several community groups to a greater or lesser degree and one of these for all of us is our school community Wā Ora.

I was thinking about this today as I reflected on our 30th anniversary celebration held on Friday night and how it brought us together, yes to celebrate 30 years, but more importantly just to be, have some fun and reconnect.

Communities allow us to form bonds and friendships. They give us a common purpose, support our striving towards a common goal and offer a sense that we are not alone and have the opportunity to be part of something bigger than ourselves. Perhaps one of the most important parts of being in a community is that it can be our rock in times of trouble, uncertainty and hardship – these are the people you can rely on.

But just being in a community is not enough. We need to have a sense of belonging, that we fit in and are accepted. In our busy and modern age, we often form our connections via social media. This is certainly true for our young people and although you might say it’s a great way to find community, the importance of human interaction cannot be underestimated. What is missing in these online dialogues is the social face-to-face connection and human contact that we all need.

It is probably no surprise that the feelings of isolation and loneliness felt by many in our society are on the increase. Isolation is one of the many factors that adversely affect our wellbeing and happiness. And so we return to the importance of community.

Strong communities like ours are not built in a day. They need to be nurtured and cared for to grow and flourish. We are very fortunate at Wā Ora to have built our strong foundations on the common elements of education, our children and our values. These elements prioritise building relationships and wellbeing.

I am so excited to be a part of this incredible community and I look forward to playing my part in opening the door to greater dialogue and building on the partnership we already have, knowing we belong to this place. Our belonging may be expressed in many ways e.g. a big event or the day-to-day personal contact we all enjoy. Remember that your smile and quick ‘good morning’ might just make the difference for someone tomorrow.

Wā Ora whānau you are what makes us so special.

“The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members.” Coretta Scott King



Ava has been at Wā Ora since 2011, initially as Deputy Principal High School and has last year stepped up to the role of Principal. She holds a Bachelor of Science and a Postgraduate Diploma of Teaching and has attended the Adolescent Orientation in Cleveland, Ohio. Ava loves the passion that Wā Ora students bring to their learning – their honesty and open mindedness. She teaches Design Tech to our college students and lives in the Hutt Valley with her husband and four sons.

Sport**Wā Ora basketball results**

Tiniball (year 3-4) vs Boulcott Lions, 10–0
Miniball (year 5-6) vs Maungaraki
Raptors, 14–12

Congratulations to . . .

. . . Wā Ora's junior and senior boys' basketball teams, who played in their division finals last week. Both games were exciting, entertaining and very close! The juniors won Division 5, beating Otaki College 50-48. The seniors were runners-up in Division 7, with Wainuiomata High School taking out the title 44-41. Thanks to everyone who came to support both teams.

Congratulations also go to Amelia L, Jachin-Arepa, Josephine, Lydia, Olivia C, Oscar, Phoebe, Psalms-Rangimari and Sienna, who participated in the Central Zone Swimming Champs on Tuesday. All our students placed. Thanks to Connie, Alexander and Brian for helping also.

Wā Ora indoor netball results

Wā Ora Fast but not Furious vs Victory Royale, 23-23.

Term 4 touch rugby and netball

If you have a year 1-6 child who is interested in playing touch rugby in term 4, or a year 1-2 child who is interested in playing netball in term 4, please refer to an email sent by Anna Tapine last week to register your child's interest.

Preschool Holiday Programme

We are now taking bookings for the October preschool holiday programme. The cost is \$175 per week for 9am - 3pm. After school care will be available from 3pm - 5pm for the first week only at the normal term charges. As we don't take casual day bookings, you will need to book and pay for a whole week, even if you don't use it all. This allows us to maintain appropriate kaiako/tamariki ratios. Lunch is to be provided by your family in line with our food procedure but morning tea will be provided. The fee will need to be paid in advance Please email anna@waora.school.nz to confirm your interest.

Scholastics

Brochures have gone home and online orders are due back by Wednesday 12th September. Wā Ora earns free books for its library, when parents purchase books for their children through Scholastics.

**Parent Education Evening
this Wednesday – RSVP now!****The view from the 3rd plane**

Come and join us at 7.30pm this Wednesday evening in Tāwari (upstairs at the high school) to delve further into the 4 Planes of Development.

Minimum numbers are required for this event to proceed and these have not yet been reached, so RSVP to the office ASAP to ensure this event goes ahead.

Mix and mingle with staff and other parents, tour the high school, hear from kaiarahi (teachers) from each sector and bring your questions about philosophy and child development.

Playgroup morning tea

Come along to Benedict's cafe, 141 Dowse Drive, Maungaraki this Friday, 7th September at 9am for a relaxed chat and a catch up. These morning teas are very relaxed affairs. Stay for as long or as short as you can manage☺


**The Great Wā Ora Quiz Night & Auction
Saturday 22nd September**

Get your friends together for a well-deserved and fun night out at the Great Wā Ora Quiz Night and Auction. Whether you're competitive or just enjoy a laugh, it'll be a night to remember. Tickets are on sale [here](#) at eventfinda. With your help we can achieve our fundraising target!

Holiday Programme

Join the musical holiday programme of rockstars at Goodtime Music Academy! Our young holiday heroes get to learn how to play a range of instruments, join a giant band, travel to a different world using our green screen, get crafty and make loads of new friends. Our exciting programme is run by a dedicated team of music tutors who plan a unique educational and engaging experience every holidays. For more info and to register, click [here](#) ☺

Give blood**NEXT BLOOD DRIVE**

 Knox Church,
574 High Street,
Lower Hutt.

 **Wed 5 Sept**
1:30pm – 6:30pm
 **Mon 17 Sept**
9:00am – 2:00pm

Please remember to bring appropriate ID on the day!

To donate, contact us today to book your appointment
 **0800 448 325**
  www.nzblood.co.nz 

Upper Hutt Spring Festival

Come along this Saturday 8th September from 9am–3pm to Main Street, Upper Hutt to the Upper Hutt Spring Festival for a great family day out – over 200 stalls selling all kinds of things, displays, entertainment and a variety of food vendors – lots of fun for the family!

Carterton Daffodil Festival

Take the train this Sunday 9th September from Wellington, Petone or Upper Hutt to the Carterton Daffodil Festival. Activities include the famous Daffodil picking at Middelrun, street markets, horse-drawn surrey rides, the Big Wai Art Sale in the Events Centre and loads more. For more info and to book, go [here](#).