

Diary Dates

Coming up . . .

- Monday 5th November **Rewarewa parent evening** 7.30 pm
- Tuesday 6th November **netball coaches and managers debrief** 2.30 pm staffroom
- Wednesday 7th November **2nd instalment school accounts due**
- Thursday 8th November **playgroup open morning 9am**
- Monday 12th November **Y4–8 Central Zone athletics** Hutt Rec
- Wednesday 14th November **Odyssey/ICT meeting** for ALL parents of year 7, 8 & 9 students 6.45 pm Kawakawa
- Wednesday 14th November **Kawakawa transition meeting** for parents of year 7 students 7.30 pm Kawakawa
- Thursday 15th November **Transition to 9-12 meeting for parents** of year 4 students 7.30 pm

NCEA starts this week for our Tāwari students



Have you completed the bullying prevention survey?

Thank you to those parents who have already submitted responses to our Bullying prevention survey. If you haven't yet, please help us to continue our focus on student well-being by providing your feedback to assist our assessment of this important area. Please click [here](#) for the survey, which is open until Friday 23rd November.

This Week

The prepared environment

By Anna McLean – Preschool Deputy Principal

The first aim of the prepared environment is, as far as it is possible, to render the growing child independent of the adult. Maria Montessori, The Secret of Childhood

There is a lot of jargon associated with Montessori education and one such phrase is “The Prepared Environment.” Here are some of the considerations that are given to providing an environment that allows tamariki to engage with it.

Firstly, it is an environment that supports the freedom to move and explore. Tamariki choose an activity and take it to where they want to use it. It may be inside or outside. Once a child has been given a lesson they are free to explore the activity again and again until it is no longer calling to them or the skill has been mastered.

The mixed age group is a feature of a Montessori classroom. Tamariki are able to learn from their peers at their own pace and through their observation of how things operate within the class. The older tamariki are the role models and naturally provide support for the younger ones, as they too were supported when they first started.

The classroom is aesthetically beautiful with care and thought going into every item that is placed within the space. Natural materials are preferred such as wood, metal, glass, cotton as opposed to plastic. Everything has a place and activities are returned to the correct position on a shelf, complete and ready for the next person.

All the furniture is child-sized. Shelving within the environment is at a height which allows tamariki to independently use items without adult support.

Utensils are fit for purpose i.e. if tamariki cut up fruit they use a knife with a sharp edge. Plates and glasses break if they are dropped which is an opportunity to learn how to carefully clean up.

There is only one of each material. If tamariki choose to do an activity already in use, they have to wait until it is back on the shelf. This naturally supports the concept of patience.

Materials are complete. If a piece of equipment is broken or there are pieces missing, then it is removed from the shelf until it is fixed or parts replaced. Many of the Montessori materials in a preschool class have a “control of error” – the clue to the child that either it has been completed correctly or something isn't quite right, thus supporting the repetition of the activity until the correct solution is found.

The outdoor environment is also prepared using the same principles. It is also a place to observe nature and take part in the practical activities associated with a garden.

Individually, you may see aspects of what has been discussed in other preschool environments but it is all of these aspects collectively that make the prepared environment a key part of Montessori philosophy.



Anna joined Wā Ora this year, having spent the last 10 years teaching in a 6-12 classroom at Tawa School. She has both AMI 3-6 and 6-12 Montessori training and a Bachelor of Education Degree (Teaching) Primary from Massey University. Anna likes sharing her passion for Montessori and never tires of talking to people about it. She lives in Tawa with her husband and two older children and in her spare time likes reading and is getting used to being a gardener.

Sport

Basketball camp



The Kiwi Hoops Camp is coming to the Walter Nash Centre on Saturday 10th and 17th November, from 9 am–12 pm and it's FREE. This is a fantastic opportunity for 7–12-year-olds, both boys and girls, to PLAY, LEARN and HAVE FUN under top youth basketball coaches. To register online click [here](#).

A couple of 'save the dates' End of year concert

This will happen on Wednesday 12th December, starting at the earlier time of 11 am this year at the high school. Parents may arrive from 10.40 am. All children must be picked up by 1 pm and there is no after school care on this day.

Transition paperwork

If your child is moving up a class next year, you will have received your transition pack with info and forms last week. Please remember to complete all the forms in your pack **and return to the office by this Friday 9th November**.

Playgroup open morning

We are excited to be holding an open morning for new and interested parents of toddlers 18 months to 3 years at the Wā Ora Montessori Playgroup THIS Thursday morning, 8th November 9 am–11.30 am. Pass this information on to any interested friends you may have and encourage them to pop in and visit us and see our Montessori playgroup environment, share a bite of morning tea and chat with our co-ordinator and other playgroup parents.

Kawakawa market on this Friday

Kawakawa market is selling before school every Friday this term (except week 8). With Christmas just around the corner and warmer weather predicted, why not enjoy some pleasant, before-school shopping at Wā Ora this term!

Abacus calendar fundraiser - due date extended till tomorrow

The due date for orders and payment has been extended to tomorrow (Tuesday 6th November) so it's your last chance to get your order and payment in to the office for these calendars, diaries, notepads, mouse pads and card packs with either children's artwork/photo.

Our school code for the order form is KZ752.

Prices are as follows:

Art/ Photo Calendar	\$14
Diary	\$18
8-pack cards/Mouse mat/Sketch pad	\$16



Working bee thank you



Thank you to all those brave souls who attended our working bee on Saturday in the less-than-ideal weather! We were able to tick off some much needed tasks☺.

Scholastics

Scholastic orders are due back on Wednesday 28th November. Issue 8 will also be coming out soon and both will be open for orders for these weeks leading up to Christmas. There is an option to have books processed as a gift for Christmas - just follow instructions online.

Clothing bin no longer here

Due to difficulty containing mess associated with the clothing bin in the staff car park, it has now been removed.

Community talk: Supporting our teens'/preteens' mental and emotional health



On Wednesday 21st November from 7–9 pm at Maungaraki Baptist Church, 164 Dowse Drive, Maungaraki. Come and hear speakers Tricia Hendry and David Goldsbury share: - what young people need most from parents and other caring adults in their world; - how we build resilience in our young people; - what the red flags are we need to be aware of; - how to have safe and helpful conversations around things like mental illness, self-harm and suicide; - the local supports/services in our area (i.e. mental health services, youth organisations, youth groups etc.); and the kinds of supports that are available in the school system and who to contact if you have concerns. Entry by koha☺.

Lower Hutt 100th Armistice Day Commemoration

The Lower Hutt civic commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the signing of the armistice which ended World War One will happen on Sunday 11th November at the Lower Hutt Cenotaph adjacent to the Lower Hutt Memorial Library, Queen Street. The Service is timed to commence with two-minutes silence at 11 am.

Well-made contemporary craft fair



Come along to Expressions Arts & Entertainment Centre, Upper Hutt on Saturday 10th November from 10 am–2 pm for a range of wares from the best independent and contemporary designers, artists, crafters, makers and bakers.

