

## Diary Dates

### Coming up . . .

- Monday 26<sup>th</sup> November **BoT/Council meeting** 7.30pm Tawhai
- Monday 26<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November **Y8–10 sexuality education**
- Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November **Y4–8 Interzone athletics**
- Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> and Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November **Y8–10 sexuality education**
- Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November **issue 8 Scholastics** order deadline
- Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December **working bee** 9 am–12 noon
- Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December **Rewarewa parent evening** 7.30 pm
- Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December **Y4–8 regional athletics**
- Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December **6-9 Trip to Wainui pool**
- Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December **Kawakawa coffee house** 7 pm
- Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December **Leavers' dinner** 6.30 pm
- Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December **Tāwari activities day** 8.30 am
- Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December **end of year school concert** 10.40 am
- Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December **SCHOOL CLOSERS 1 PM**

### Christmas gift donations



This year we're collecting Christmas gifts for Angel Tree Aotearoa. There is a box for contributions in the office and one also at the high school. If you would like to supply a gift, please wrap, if possible, and label with the suitable age and gender. If you would like to donate cash instead, please give to the ladies in the office. Any queries please email [Dannielle](mailto:Dannielle.Ngāmihi@waora.school.nz). Ngā mihi.

## This Week

### Kawakawa Ball

By Ava Szabo - Principal

Kia Ora whānau

I was lucky enough to be able to attend the Kawakawa ball last week and what a special evening it was. Events like this provide valuable opportunities for our ākonga to come together as a community outside of the classroom and participate in an evening that they have organised and planned. It is a chance for all ākonga to dress up and get out on the dance floor, putting into practice all their ballroom dance moves learnt during term four this year.

This was also a time for the community to firmly establish a new tradition, something that is theirs and theirs alone. Something that will be passed on to other Kawakawa communities in years to come.

As I watched our ākonga waltz the night away, I was struck by how different this ball was from others I had attended in the past and then I recognised what was different. The dance floor was full of laughter and almost full of couples dancing and showing off their newly acquired skills. And those who were not dancing were occupied with games in the chill out area. The dance was fun and purposeful for everyone.

Ballroom dancing no matter what the genre, has a structure. There are rules and the very nature of the dance brings people together. Friends enjoyed the intricacies of each move, working together, confident and happy, accompanied by a great DJ and a smoke machine. The students interacted with each other spontaneously, enjoying each and every step. This evening was a time for friendships, old and new.

It was also a time for hilarity and understanding, as mis-steps were made and effortlessly corrected - or not! Students were developing a new found sense of self and accomplishment, stepping out of their comfort zone to try something new.

An additional benefit of the Kawakawa dance is that it has a positive impact on the mental wellbeing of our teenagers; the physical exercise that the dance provides reduces the feelings of anxiety, depression and frustration that teens can sometimes feel. Dancing also improves attention spans; not surprising when you see the complexity of some of the dance moves! So many reasons to continue this amazing event.

A great evening Kawakawa. Thank you!

*'Free the child's potential and you will transform him into the world.'* Maria Montessori.



**Sport****Touch results**

Ruru (Y1/2) v Belmont Ninja Turtles, 3–4.  
Pūkeko (Y1/2) v Belmont Flames, 5–4.  
Weka (Y3/4) v Belmont Cheetahs, 2–8.  
Kererū (Y3/4 mixed) v Boulcott Hurricanes, 1–12.

**Congratulations to . . .**

. . . Nea Blackham who has been selected for the U16 girls Capital football team to play in the national age group tournament (which involves the 7 regional football federations around NZ) in Petone and Upper Hutt next month. Good luck!

**Can you check in on our chickens?**

If you are staying local these holidays and have time to come in and check on the Kawakawa chickens, we'd love to hear from you. We need volunteers every day or two to top up water and feed. If you find any eggs in the coop, you are welcome to take them ☺. Please email [Hanne](mailto:Hanne) to go on a roster of chicken carers.

**Working bee**

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

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December****9am – 12noon**

Eva Lamb	Alara Vitale-Toniso
Spencer Tysoe	Benjamin Chandrahasen
Grayson Sellers	Jachin-Arepa Webster
Lorelei Fetting	Loretta Evans-Velazquez
Nunu Woodson	Cameron Macaulay
Ishan Vallabh	Zephram Hoffman
Amelia Dawson	Hunter McAulay
Mia McNamara	Amelia Langford

**Last days 2018**

A reminder that Wā Ora will be closed after the end of year concert on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December with no after school care on that afternoon. Preschool and after school care will operate as normal for the rest of that week (Thursday and Friday) and the following Monday and Tuesday finishing on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December.

**Dates for 2019****Start dates**

Preschool and primary school return in 2019 on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> January. High school starts Monday 28<sup>th</sup> January, with the (am) Odyssey gear check for Kawakawa and the (pm) Tāwari course confirmation.

**Teacher only day**

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March is a teacher-only day and the school will not be open for students.

**End of year concert**

This year's end of year concert is on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December, starting at the earlier time of 11 am at the high school. Parents may arrive from 10.40 am. Teachers will walk preschool and primary classes up to Rata Street at 10.50 am and back down to Waddington Drive after the concert where parents can pick up. THERE IS NO AFTER SCHOOL CARE ON THIS DAY.

**10.40 am Parents start arriving****11 am Opening address****11.05 am Scott Champion, BoT chair****11.10 am Andrea Thompson, PTA chair****11.15 am Class items (Nīkau, Rewarewa, Pōhutukawa, Kōwhai, Rātā, Pūriri, Kauri, Tōtara, Tawhai, Kawakawa, Tāwari)****12.10pm Leavers Ceremony****12.20pm Ava Szabo, Principal****12.25pm Staff leaving the school****12.30 pm Staff item****12.35 pm Concert finished –****SCHOOL CLOSED****Newsletter moving to the app**

From next term our weekly school newsletter will be available via the school communications app but will no longer be emailed. We will still have hard copies available from the counter at the school office should you prefer this and remember that the newsletter is also able to be viewed on the login part of the school website if you wish to read on a larger screen than your phone. If you have not yet downloaded our app, here is the [link](#) to do so.

**Transition forms – LAST CALL**

We are almost there! –There's only a few outstanding forms still not handed back in to the office. It's imperative we receive these completed forms back this week, so they can be processed in time for your child/ren's transition to their new class next year.

**Scholastics**

The last Scholastic brochure (issue 8) has gone home/into preschool mail pockets and orders must be placed by this Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November. Issue 7 orders are due by this Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> November. To have books processed as a gift for Christmas, please follow the instructions online ☺

**Mobile phone recycling**

Recycling for Charity have teamed up with Wellington Children's Hospital in a mobile recycling appeal to help fund new medical equipment for the new children's hospital. The more mobile phones that are received for recycling, the more money that can be donated to this wonderful charity. All mobile phones are securely wiped (if you have an iPhone, iCloud unlock before donating) and environmentally recycled, as are lithium batteries. So drop your old mobile phone at the school office in the box to help both these causes – Wellington Children's Hospital and the environment ☺

**School holiday computer classes**

We have classes for students aged 5–15 in Minecraft, Learning to code in scratch, python or java, Creating 3D games, Web design, Video editing, Building a PC and if young, the Discovery computer class. For further information call 499 2211 or visit [www.grandtraining.co.nz](http://www.grandtraining.co.nz).

**House sitter available**

If you would like an honest and reliable house sitter to look after your house, pot plants and pets over December–January, please call Sue on 021 247 1541.