

## Diary Dates

## This Week

### Coming Up . . .

- Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February **school accounts 1<sup>st</sup> instalment due**
- Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> February Waitangi Day Holiday- **SCHOOL CLOSED**
- Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February **Kawakawa students home** from Odyssey 5:30pm at Bluebridge terminal
- Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February **year 7 technology**
- Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February **Kawakawa students' day off** in lieu of Waitangi Day
- Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February **Your Montessori Baby parent education series** 9 am–10.30 am
- Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February **Playgroup open morning** 9 am–11.30 am
- Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February **year 7 technology**

### Welcome to the following children and their families...

- Kōwhai**–Alice Moir and Jessie Horspool
- Pōhutukawa**–Jensen McKillop and Jacob McIlroy
- Rewarewa**–Marcus Hu and James Drumm
- Nīkau**–Musa Waqas

### Your Montessori baby parent education series



*Would you like to learn how to introduce Montessori elements into your parenting of your baby or toddler? Come along to our 4-week series of talks starting Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 9 am–10.30 am to learn how simple it is to bring Montessori into your home. The course cost is \$50. For more information or to book your place, email Dannielle King at [dannielle@waora.school.nz](mailto:dannielle@waora.school.nz).*

### Expectations and Consistency

*By Krista Kerr – Pōhutukawa teacher*

When discussing a child's behaviour at school with a parent I often hear the comment "Why doesn't my child do that at home?" – 'that' being anything like: follow instructions, put things away when they are finished with them, or get along well with others.

The two words that I always go back to are expectation and consistency.

Our akomanga are set up to build our class cultures. For a large group of people to be together day after day, learning and getting on, there has to be some boundaries. We keep these to a minimum and they are mostly based on the respect of others. These then become the expectations that we all hold each other to. For example, when an activity is finished with, it is replaced in the correct place just as it was found before moving onto another activity. This is out of respect for others that may want to use that activity and to preserve the order of the class.

However, having expectations is only half of it - you then have to consistently hold each other to these expectations. Simple right?

Of course this is not as easy as it sounds, especially outside the bubble that is school. At kura we have a whole class full of people to uphold these behaviours; it doesn't just come down to one or two people (especially in preschool where our four-year-old 'police officers' remind everyone of the 'rules'!). We also have the luxury of time—at home one day you may have the time to follow through on the expectation that your child will tidy up their breakfast mess, but the next morning you forgo that for the sake of getting to school on time. Decide ahead of time what the consequences will be when this happens, which is then consistently applied. Perhaps it is there after school for them to tidy, perhaps they get up earlier the next morning so that they have the time needed.

However, the more you set boundaries around the behaviours that you expect and then consistently stick to these (with yourself as the role model), the quicker these expectations will become habits. Start small with realistic expectations, involving your child in these decisions if age appropriate, help to set up the forming behaviours and then build from there.

Another common question concerning consistency I get from parents is, "What can I do at home to be consistent with what my child is doing at school?"

I'm going to plug our parent education nights and fortnightly blogs here! Interact with your child's teacher and with the school community. Give feedback on areas that you would like more information on; whether that be literacy, preparing for transitions, behaviour, Montessori philosophy... The information we share via parent evenings, blogs, newsletters is going to be more relevant to you if it is about topics that you are interested in finding out more about!

Me korero ano - let's talk more!



*Krista Kerr joined Wā Ora as an assistant teacher in 2008. Two years later she moved with her family to London to complete the AMI 3-6 Diploma, followed by the Post Diploma Observation Course, returning in 2012 to take up her current position. She especially enjoys the three year cycle in Montessori education which allows teachers to build strong relationships with tamariki and their whānau. She has two sons at Wā Ora and enjoys bush walking and seeing different parts of New Zealand.*

## Office re-location



While the office renovations are finished off over the next couple of weeks, both the office reception and Principal's office have been relocated to the old staffroom (formerly Tawhai before that). Entry is from the primary playground. Come and visit us to inform about absences, lateness and appointments, bookings for after and before school care, checking for lost property, signing the preschool register or any other enquiries.

## Lost property

While the office renovations are occurring, the Lost Property will be located at the temporary office in the old staff room.

## Preschool parents signing



Please ensure you sign your child's attendance on a weekly basis on the clipboard in the school office as this is a Ministry requirement.

There are many parents outstanding from last year still, so please pop into the temporary office (old staffroom) as soon as possible to sign.

## Donna's hours are changing

If you need to see Donna regarding payments/invoicing of school accounts, please catch her before school. Alternatively, she is contactable on her email [donna@waora.school.nz](mailto:donna@waora.school.nz). From now on Donna will work 8 am–12 pm Monday to Friday.

## Does your child regularly leave school early for activities?

If you regularly pick up your primary and/or high school student(s) from school earlier than the normal 3.30pm finish time, you must notify both the office and your child's teacher by email. Your email should advise all of the dates this will be happening. If your arrangements change, you need to keep the office updated via email. Thanks for your help with this.

## Scholastics

Scholastics brochures have been sent home last week and online orders are due Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February.

## Playgroup open morning



We are excited to be holding an open morning for new and interested parents of toddlers aged 18-months to 3 years at the Wā Ora Montessori Playgroup. Share the [facebook event](#) or pass this info on to any interested friends 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.

## Absences, late and appointments

If your child is going to be away sick or on holiday, or has an appointment in school time, you must notify our school office. You can do this via the school app, by texting 029 770 4286, by emailing [office@waora.school.nz](mailto:office@waora.school.nz) or by leaving a message on the absences answer phone 567 2377 before 8.30am. If you do not notify us, we will text you for their whereabouts. If your child is away sick for more than one day, you must advise the office EACH day they are away. Also if you are picking up early or dropping off late, you must call at or text the office to say your child is leaving now/is back now.

## School closed on Wednesday for Waitangi Day—enjoy the break!



## Please label all clothing and stationery

The start of the new year is a good time to name all items of clothing and stationery. Doing this also assists us to return named items to their rightful owners😊

## Te Rā O Waitangi



This Waitangi Day bring your friends and whānau along for kai and kapa haka at Te Rā o Waitangi. Celebrations start at 10 am at Te Wharewaka o Poneke and continue at noon at Waitangi Park for live music. There's a line-up of award-winning Māori performers as well as activities at the lagoon all day. For full information on all the activities on offer please click [here](#).

## Arts a Go Go!

Arts a Go Go! Performing Arts School for Kids, 651 Fergusson Drive, Upper Hutt has classes for babies right through to older teenagers, beginners to advanced! There are still limited spaces available in drama, dance, singing, preschool music, Irish dancing and musical theatre classes. For more details call 021 144 1641, visit [www.artsagogo.co.nz](http://www.artsagogo.co.nz) or email [rachel](mailto:rachel@artsagogo.co.nz).

## DIY zero waste toiletries and cleaners workshop

Hutt City Libraries host the Two No-Waste Nomads behind The Rubbish Trip, this Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> February from 10 am–12 pm at Lower Hutt War Memorial Library as they show you how to make a range of toiletries and cleaning products, zero waste! BYO containers if you would like to take home samples! For more info check out [eventfinda](#)

## Chinese New Year Celebrations



Come celebrate the Chinese New Year and welcome in the year of the pig at Te Papa this Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> February from 11 am–3.30pm. Enjoy group dance performances, crafts and face painting for the little ones, lantern making workshops, and a special screening of China's Ghost Army produced by NHNZ and National Geographic. For more info and to book workshops, click [here](#).