

Diary Dates

Coming up . . .

- Wednesday 6th March 3rd instalment of accounts due
- Wednesday 6th March **Kōwhai parents catch up evening** 6.30 pm
- Thursday 7th March **school photos**
- Friday 8th March **year 7 technology**
- Friday 8th March **PTA twilight picnic 5 pm**
- Monday–Tuesday 11th & 12th March **Kawakawa Parent teacher student meetings**
- Thursday 14th March **Parent Morning Tea** 9 am Trade School Kitchen
- Friday 15th March **year 7 technology**
- Monday 18th March **BoT/council meeting** 7.30 pm staff room

PTA Twilight School Picnic

–THIS FRIDAY–

Come along to the annual
PTA school picnic!

Friday, 22 February
5–7pm

Grab a blanket, pack a picnic hamper and meet up with other families on the school field.

Bring some cash to buy a sausage

We are adding to the fun this year with a Bouncy Castle, along with the normal games and lolly scramble!



The rescheduled Wā Ora PTA annual twilight picnic is on this Friday 8th March. The forecast from MetService for the week looks good, so we'll look forward to seeing you along with your picnic hamper for a catch up with friends and activities for the kids from 5 pm–7 pm in the primary playground.

This Week

The place of handwork in modern day learning

By Carol Palmer–Tawhai Teacher

Every year as a new wave of children joins our class I notice a surge in the uptake of handwork. Children are naturally drawn to this creative work because handwork connects to all things and meets so many needs in the child.

Handwork takes commitment, both to master and to complete a project. Children in modern society can become so used to quick-fixes and instant gratification that they lose the ability or motivation to strive for anything longer term. Knitting a scarf can take months, particularly if the child goes through all the steps of washing and spinning the wool, and knitting it on knitting needles that they have made themselves. These projects teach children that we can achieve great things, if we take them one step at a time.

Handwork is therapeutic, it creates a space in time when the hands are engaged but the mind is free to process and unwind—it naturally slows down to meet the rhythm of the craft, and its natural balance is restored. In a culture where children are becoming increasingly stressed and anxious it is more important than ever that we offer them an outlet for their tension.

In a world where children are used to working with electronic devices—connecting with plastic, metal and glass and using finger tips and thumbs to tap and swipe—there is, more than ever, a need to develop the hand.

When we sew, we must hold our fabric in place and manipulate our needle to come out in the precise spot needed to make small, neat stitches. Then we must pull the thread hard enough to draw it tight, but not so hard that the fabric bunches up, or the needle becomes unthreaded. There are few other activities offered to children, which build their fine motor skills in such detailed and comprehensive way.

Any serious knitter will tell you how much maths is involved in resizing patterns and any IT specialist can tell you how closely the binary combinations of knit and purl relate to coding. When we make clay pots, we explore the pottery that our ancestors used, how it was designed and fired and what this tells us about our history. When we carve wood we learn to respect strict safety rules and when we weave baskets we have to think about the strength of our construction and its suitability to our intended purpose.

So whilst we are doing a lot of handwork, we are preparing hands for writing with our spinning, engaging the mathematical brain with our knitting and practising engineering as we make our tools. We are engaging the scientific brain as we discover the effect of pH on the colour of dye and building stamina as we commit to completing long term projects. We are learning mindfulness techniques and, as a side bonus, we are producing beautiful objects.

Handwork connects to everything and connects us to each other. Please feel free to come and join us in our creative work in Tawhai.



Carol completed her teacher training in the UK in 2005 and also holds a Graduate Diploma of Teaching and Learning from Canterbury College of Education and an AMI Montessori Teacher Training qualification. Carol, who has been teaching at Wā Ora since 2013, loves the breadth of the Montessori curriculum and that the children she works with really follow their own interests and lead their own learning. She has two children at Wā Ora and out of work she likes to play with textile crafts and make costumes.

Sport**Futsal results**

Junior Girls v Heretaunga, 8–4.
Senior Mixed v Heretaunga, 6–1.

Touch Rugby

Pūkeko (Y1/2) v Belmont Flames, 4–2.
Kererū (Y3/4) v Maranatha Jaguars, 7–2.
Kōkako (Y5/6) v Koraunui Rangitahi, 3–9.

Netball Y9–13

There is a meeting for Y9–13 students with Louane and Sarah Jane tomorrow at 11.30 am in the soft tech room to talk over options for 2019. Bring your lunch:)

Mountain Biking

Congratulations to Korey and Seb on their participation in the recent Super D Downhill in Wainuiomata. Both students placed 5th in their respective age groups, even with Korey having a small detour into the flax bushes☺. These are pretty gnarly trails... fantastic effort!

School Photos

School photos will be happening at Wā Ora this **Thursday 7th March**. The schedule is as follows:

8 am	Staff
8.30 am	Kawakawa (+ID photos)
9 am	Tāwari
9.30 am	Playgroup
9.45 am	Nīkau
10 am	Rewarewa
10.15 am	Pōhutukawa
10.30 am	Kōwhai
10.45 am	Pūriri
11 am	Kauri
11.15 am	Rātā
11.30 am	Tawhai
11.45 am	Tōtara
12.15 pm	Sibling Photos

Before school care on photo day

This will be held in Pōhutukawa class on Thursday to accommodate school photos.

Preschool playground after school

If you are a parent picking up after school, please ensure you have moved from the preschool playground by 3.40 pm to enable our large number of after school care children to have full use of the preschool outdoor space. You are welcome to move over to the primary playground to continue playing.

Primary students are not to be in preschool playground before school

Parents, please remind your primary child to refrain from playing or visiting the preschool playground before school. This area is for preschoolers and their whānau only.

No scooters in preschool playground

A reminder that there are to be no scooters in the preschool playground before, during or after school for the safety of all those using this space.

Kawakawa market 2019 . . .

. . . is just around the corner. Come and support us for our first market this Friday, March 8th. Students will be selling from 8 am–8.45 am. We'd love it if you'd attend and check out some brand new products.

Coffee cart and Café

KAWAKAWA

COFFEE CART

New Location for Coffee Cart & Cafe!**open Friday morning****7:45 - 9:00 AM****High School Campus****in the main entrance foyer****Drinks****coffee | hot chocolate | tea****Food****bacon & egg paninis | bliss balls |
vegan lemon cake****Shave for a cure**

John, father of Graydon in Rātā class, is shaving for a cure again this year. Five years ago Graydon was diagnosed with leukemia. With 3 and a half years of chemotherapy, a little luck and a ton of support, he's now in remission with very good odds of being declared cancer-free when he turns 10. You can support John and Shave for a Cure by donating at his page [here](#).

Piano FREE to a good home

I am well loved, was well played and involved in lots of parties! I am well behaved with a couple of keys to be looked at, a wee tune up and a LOT more playing. Also I think I am pretty good looking piece of furniture too—especially for my age and would love to be played again! Pick up is from Lower Hutt with easy access. Please call Annette 027 499 9688.

Event: The Developing Brain**Understand Your Brain**

Rarua Normal Intermediate School, Wellington
Fri 31 May 2019 - 7:00pm - 8:30pm
Tickets at [Eventfinda.co.nz](#)



Don't miss the opportunity to hear internationally renowned neuroscience educator Nathan Wallis talk about the brain and how our day-to-day interactions with our children and young people, significantly during the early years, play a critical role in defining later outcomes for our children and for their future. He's speaking at Rarua Normal Intermediate School on Friday 31st May so follow this [link](#) and get your tickets now:-)

Wainuiomata Rural Fest 2019

Come along to the free annual 'country comes to town' family day at the Queen Street Reserve and the Wainuiomata Memorial Hall this Saturday. The fun packed programme includes dog shows, emergency services, sheep shearing demos, a bake-off, tug of war, gumboot throwing, sack races, food and market stalls, and much more! More info [here](#).