

## Diary Dates

### Coming up . . .

- Monday 8<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> April **9–12 camp**
- Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April **high school parent education evening** 7.30 pm –Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup>–11<sup>th</sup> April **6–9 parent teacher meetings**
- Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April **Deadline for Wā Ora hoodie orders**
- Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April **Kawakawa Coffeehouse** 7pm
- Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April **Rewarewa whānau breakfast**
- Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April **LAST DAY TERM 1**
- Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April **FIRST DAY TERM 2**
- Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May **year 7 technology**
- Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May **working bee** 9 am–12 noon

### High school parent education evening



**THIS Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 7.30 pm**  
**TOPIC: How to help at home!**  
Last minute RSVPs can be made to  
[Thomas](#)



## This Week

### When are we ever going to use this

*By Michael Draper–Physics and Electro-tech Teacher–High School*

“When are we ever going to use this?” This is a common question from teenagers in conventional high schools, yet we rarely hear this question in Tāwari. Why is that?

Maria Montessori identified that the primary drive for adolescents is learning what they need to function as an adult.

Part of this is social. Adolescents need to establish their own unique identity, to develop their own self-expression and to fit in with others beyond the environment of family. In the 6–12 years, children learn through social play, safe in their position as children within a family/whānau. With adolescence their awareness turns to the challenge of becoming participants in adult society and their social experimentation and learning suddenly becomes very real and earnest.

Another equally important part is occupational: the need to learn how to become a contributing member of the community. Historically, this was the age children would enter into apprenticeships, working at the feet of a master to learn their trade or occupation. They started with simple tasks, then as their confidence and exposure to the real work developed, they would move on to progressively more skilled and more complex tasks. This progression also reflects our more recent understanding of the process of body and brain development that occurs in adolescence, starting with broader physical capabilities and progressing through finer skills to the blossoming of abstract thinking proficiencies in later adolescence.

Adolescents want to learn. They are driven to learn what they perceive will be useful for them as adults. Just telling them there is purpose isn’t enough. If they can’t see for themselves a clear connection between what they are being taught and its usefulness for them as adults, they will struggle to maintain attention. The key here is relevance. When ākongā see relevance in what they are learning, they learn faster, understand and retain more.

At Wā Ora this understanding is reflected in the different emphasis and work patterns of Kawakawa (school years 8-10) and Tāwari (the NCEA years). In Kawakawa, the emphasis is on social development and on practical experiences of working with others and with the physical world. There is less emphasis on academic learning in Kawakawa, partly because the young adolescent brain is still developing capacity for this and partly because of the need to give ākongā the experiences that give meaning to future academic learning.

In Tāwari however, the priority shifts to the more academic requirements of senior high school learning. It is here that the experiences and practical learning in Kawakawa pay off; where conventional school students struggle to see the relevance of many lessons, Tāwari students have a rich store of practical experience to which they can relate the more abstract learning of senior high school. With a richness of experience to draw on, the question of “When will I ever use this?” becomes redundant.



*Michael trained as an engineer but worked firstly in IT and management consulting before turning his energy to teaching. Michael loves how Montessori engages ākongā in projects that combine learning across multiple fields and helps ākongā grow and develop as contributing members of their communities. Michael describes himself as a geek, loves learning across almost any field and is a recent and enthusiastic electric car owner!*

**Sport**

**Basketball**

First practice for year 9–13 high school teams will be from 4–6 pm on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April at Walter Nash Centre.

**Indoor Netball**

Wā Ora v Chokin Kind, 15–22.

**Swimming sports**

This event will be held for years 4–13 students on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May at Naenae Pool from 10 am–2 pm:)

**Working bee**



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

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May**

**9am – 12noon**

Colton Barnes	Loise Ganachaud
Neo Carter-Knight	Hamish Gardiner
Jaya Cope	Charlie Goldberg
Harry Eathorne	Lilian Gray
Danae Enyedi-Laing	Arthur Ha
Ella Fa’afua	Zara Hartford
Lucia Falconer	Gideon Hay
Aubane Farcy	Emily Ho
Lorelei Fetting	Zephram Hoffman
Svetlana Fisher	Nyah Holland
Felix Ford-Robinson	Neriah Hopoi
Innes Fraser	Carla Horspool
Willow German	Abi Manolo
Loretta Evans-Valazquez	

**Playpen request**

Kia ora. We have lots of babies coming to playgroup in the coming months. If anyone has a spare playpen that folds flat when not in use, we would love to have one to give our babies a safe space. Please email [dannielle@waora.school.nz](mailto:dannielle@waora.school.nz) if you have one you would like to donate. Thank you.

**Emergency response alerts**

Following on from last week’s practice lock down drill, a reminder to all whānau to ensure the school communications app is downloaded on your mobile phone, as this will be a key communication method to whānau in an emergency. You can download the app via [this link](#).

**Donations Tax Letters**

All families with primary and high school students are able to claim back a portion of their 2018/19 school donations through the tax return process. These letters are now ready to be collected from the school office.

**Preschool lunch assistant sought**

We have a vacancy for a parent to help in Pōhutukawa class from 12 noon to 1 pm during term weeks on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. This position starts in week 2 of next term for the duration of the year. Please note this vacancy is not open to parents of Pōhutukawa tamaki. If you are interested please see or email DP Preschool, Anna ([anna@waora.school.nz](mailto:anna@waora.school.nz)).

**Wā Ora hoodies – last chance**



Orders close for our Wā Ora hooded sweatshirts on Wednesday. Orders can be completed online [here](#) or

via a paper order form (which can be printed out from the attachment to this newsletter’s cover email or picked up at the office; complete and return to the school or scan and email back). **The deadline for orders is THIS Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April** and delivery of apparel is expected the first week of term two.

**Lost property**

The lost property rack (in the hallway near Rātā class) is full once more. Please make a point of checking for your children’s items before they are cleared out then. Also please label your child’s clothing as this makes it easier for us to return items.

**Kawakawa market**

Hello everyone. Since we have coffee house on this last week of term, Kawakawa market won’t be selling this Friday, but we look forward to seeing you next term.

**Request from Coffee Cart and Café**

Unfortunately, we will not be selling coffee at this Thursday’s Kawakawa Coffeehouse, unless someone has a machine at home that we can please borrow for the evening? If you can help, please email [Jaya](#). We will still be selling finger food–brownies, cupcakes, mini pies and sausage rolls–as well as hot chocolate and hot black currant drinks.

**Community Meeting - Anti Bullying (Bullying Prevention)**

Save the date for this community meeting which follows up last year’s Anti-bullying survey. The meeting is scheduled for the third week of next term on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm in Tōtara class room. Please RSVP to [Jo Dyer](#) if you plan to attend.

**Entertainment Books**



Entertainment books arrive at school early in term 2, but if you would like to opt out of receiving the Entertainment book this year, please let the office know by THIS Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April. Remember also, that even if you do not want to buy the Entertainment Book, you are still able to donate \$13 to the PTA which is the amount Wā Ora makes from each book sold. Please advise the office if you would like to do this.

**9-12 Parent Teacher Interview Bookings**

If you have not already made a booking to see your 9-12 child’s teacher, please click [here](#) to make a booking and enter the code 58ge8.

**Wheels Day**

Bring your bike and pop in for a go on the bike obstacle course with UHCC Activation team at Expressions Whirinaki Arts & Entertainment Ct, 836 Fergusson Drive, Upper Hutt this Sunday between 10 am and 2 pm. There will be free child safety car seats checks by trained restraint technicians in the H2O carpark. For all ages. No bookings needed.

**Easter Scavenger Hunt**



Join Love Wainuiomata and Hub staff in an amazing free Easter themed scavenger hunt this Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April from 2 pm–4 pm all across the Queen Street and the reserve. Download the Goosechase app to your smartphone before you come along. If you’re smart phone-free, we’ll have paper scavenger hunt clues too!