

## Diary Dates

### Coming up . . .

- Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> PTA meeting 6.30 pm high school
- Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> July 1<sup>st</sup> instalment of accounts due
- Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> August Playgroup open morning 9 am
- Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> August Sports T-shirt orders close (revised date)
- Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August Working bee 9 am
- Friday 9<sup>th</sup> August Rewarewa afternoon tea 3 pm

### Working bee



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

### Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 9am – 12noon

Abby Budge	Charlie Goldberg
Zayna James	Vanisha Tandon
Lydia Millar	Sophia Mathieson
Zoe Mildenhall	Kaitlyn Burtenshaw
Richard Moon	Farren McClelland
Rome Soutar	Zander McFarlane
Charlie Munro	Fletcher McGrath
Mila Nagel	Cormac McNatty
Grace Nickel	Sophie McPherson
Atreyu Olsen	Summer Nguyen
Gabriel Opie	Sonny Nguyen
Emily Parle	Hannah Pinfold
Karan Patel	Aarav Patel

### Reminder: early close end of term 3

The last day of term 3, Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September, will be a half-day only. School will end for preschool, primary and high at 12 noon and there will be no after school care on this day.

## This Week

### The Science of Observation

By Dannielle King—Playgroup Facilitator

Observation is one of the core principles of Montessori practice. If the kaiārahi (guides) do not closely observe the tamariki (children), how will they know if they have mastered a skill in order to be ready for the next lesson, or know what their interests are to help them engage in interesting work?

For most of us observation sounds pretty simple—you just watch and see what is happening; there is no special skill required. Montessori teacher training however spends a large amount of time teaching and practising how to observe objectively. To really see what is happening for a child we must leave all our preconceptions, feelings and knowledge behind and concentrate on what is physically happening in the moment. Of course this is done unobtrusively so as not to interrupt their work.

"Praise, help, or even a look, may be enough to interrupt him, or destroy the activity. It seems a strange thing to say, but this can happen even if the child merely becomes aware of being watched. After all, we too sometimes feel unable to go on working if someone comes to see what we are doing. The great principle which brings success to the teacher is this: as soon as concentration has begun, act as if the child does not exist." (Dr. Maria Montessori, 'The Absorbent Mind'.)

Objective observation can be a useful tool as a parent too. Watch a new baby's body language and facial expressions and you will be able to pick up on their preferences and emotions in different situations. If you can observe your toddler's behaviour in relation to developmental stages, you can provide materials or tools to help master a new skill. Perhaps toys are constantly being thrown—on the surface this might look like misbehaviour and against the rules, but if you look at it as being driven to practise a new body movement, you could provide a cloth ball and a target or basket to aim at, and this stage might then work itself through with less disruption.

An older child's actions may often differ from their words. Maybe your daughter says her favourite colour is pink, like all of her friends, but when offered a choice will always pick the green object? Are the small collectible toys (that you dislike so much but were talked into at the shop) actually being played with or are they abandoned once the excitement of purchasing and opening is over with?

I recently attended the Montessori conference and the 0-3 speaker led some really valuable discussions on observation, which I will share with playgroup whānau through the term. You can put it into practice yourself by simply paying more attention to what you are seeing at home, or if you want to be a bit more scientific, find a diary and make some notes. If you only write down physical actions and not your initial feelings as to what they mean, you may look back later and find a different interpretation of what was happening. Either way, any insight you gain can only help you on your parenting journey!



*Dannielle has been working at Wā Ora since 2015. She started out as a Wā Ora parent covering lunch breaks and relieving in the preschool to increase her understanding of Montessori philosophy. Now Dannielle also coordinates the playgroup. She finds it amazing to see how much a 1- or 2-year-old can accomplish when given the chance and she loves sharing her Wā Ora experiences with families who are considering a Montessori education for their little one. In my spare time you will usually find me reading, baking or cake decorating.*

## Sport

### Badminton

Junior season has finished for 2019.  
Senior Mixed (Year 11–13) vs Upper Hutt 4, 2–4.

### Basketball

Seniors (Year 11–13) vs Mana, 52–60  
Juniors (Year 8–10) vs Wellington High, 66–32.

### Netball

Wā Ora/Raphael House combined (Year 9–10) vs Upper Hutt, 26–6.  
Miromiro (Year 7–8) vs Hutt Int H, draw.  
Toutouwai (Year 5–6) vs Our Lady of the Rosary School 3.

**Wā Ora sports t-shirts for purchase—orders close THIS FRIDAY**



Orders for our school sports T's close this Friday. **It will be a requirement for all high school students wishing to play badminton or futsal in a school team to purchase their own shirt as part of their uniform (email coming from Sarah Jane with full info);** primary students may choose to buy their own shirt, but a limited number will be available to borrow for students representing the school at events/team sports. There is a child's size 10 shirt at the office and a sizing chart for trying on.

### Scholastic book orders

Scholastic brochures are now in preschool mail pockets or have gone home with primary students. The online order deadline is Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August.

### Weekly signing of preschool attendance sheets

Preschool parents: please come into the office this week to check your signing is up to date for your preschoolers' attendance. This is a requirement of the Ministry of Education and signatures are now also needed for all preschoolers for the holiday period—even if they do not attend the holiday programme, they must be signed for as 'absent'. If you have any queries, the office staff will be happy to help you.

## Quiz Night—can you donate?

Our quiz night is happening later this term and we are calling for donations of prizes for the auction and sponsors on the night.

### CAN YOU DONATE A PRIZE OR OFFER SPONSORSHIP?

If your business, or a business you know of, can help with either of these, please email [Bridget](mailto:Bridget) (sponsorship) or [Tania](mailto:Tania) (prizes).

Sponsors' company details will be on an A4 sponsor brochure given to everyone who attends; you also have the option to provide a voucher for your businesses services. Facebook posts and school newsletter coverage are also included. Those businesses donating a prize will also be mentioned during the evening. Thank you to all in advance for your support😊

### Wā Ora PTA get-together

Are you interested in being part of the PTA? We are having a get together at the high school tomorrow evening Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> July at 6.30 pm and if you are interested in joining the PTA or are an existing member, we would love you to join us. The PTA is an important part of the school community and it would be really good to grow the team. Please RSVP with your name and a YES to [waorapta@waora.school.nz](mailto:waorapta@waora.school.nz), if you plan on attending. If you cannot make this date but are interested please also let us know and we will get in touch.

### School office hours

While Donna is away (until week 8 of this term) the school office will open each morning at 8.30 am. The closing time of 4.30 pm will be as per usual.

## Please return your Civil Defence paperwork ASAP.

Many of these forms are still outstanding and need to be returned to the office as soon as possible. In order to provide the best care for your children in an emergency situation, we need to hold all records electronically and our current paper Civil Defence forms are becoming obsolete.



### Family history open day

Whether you are experienced or just beginning your family history journey, there will be something at our Wellington Family History Month Open Day for you on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> August, 9.30 am–4 pm at Hutt Bowling Club, 6 Myrtle Street, Lower Hutt. \$5 entry. Come along and hear our specialist speakers talking about the resources and support available to those searching to fill in the gaps.

### Carving class for beginners

Stackhouse Knives is offering a carving class for beginners this Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> August from 9.30 am–4.30 pm at 11 Waiu Street, Wainuiomata. Students will create a wearable carving from wood or bone and be offered a range of materials to work from. The course costs \$150 and more information/registration details can be found [here](http://www.stackhouseknives.co.nz).