

Diary Dates

Coming up . . .

- Tuesday 27th August **Practice Lockdown** 1.30 pm
- Wednesday 28th August **3rd instalment of school accounts due**
- Wednesday 28th August **Parent information evening: Behind the screens** 7.30 pm T2
- Friday 30th August **Wā Ora Celebration of Culture event** 5.30 pm in T2
- Saturday 7th September **Working bee** 9 am–12 noon
- Friday 27th September **Last day of term whole school early close at 12 noon**

Wā Ora Celebration of Culture

This Friday 5.30 pm–7.30 pm



A community evening to connect and reconnect with new friends and old in T2 at the high school site. There will be fun and games for the kids – disco, fireside sing-along, art and craft and ball games on the court – with senior students.

Feel free to dress in the national costume of a culture you identify with | Bring your favourite ethnic dish to share | BYO plates /cutlery etc. | Water and cups will be provided | There will be a sausage sizzle (\$2 each) in the fale (out the back) | Kawakawa Coffee Cart will be selling coffees and hot chocolates.

Parent information evening



THIS Wednesday 28th August is our high school parent education night. We have the team from Attitude talking about the changing world of teens and online influences. Entry is \$5 and venue is T2 at the high school. An event full of insights!

This Week

Music in the Environment

By Joel Batson – Tōtara Teacher

Recently I have been reflecting upon my previous life experiences with music: singing with my family, listening to Mum sing and play folk songs on the guitar and flute, nursery rhymes, spiritual songs and my early experiences with instruments such as the piano, the guitar and drums.

I consider just how important those experiences were for my formation as an adult; being able to function and be ready to process the environment around me and make choices that have effects upon others. And I consider I have been blessed. You may ask what these things have in common with each other?

I am coming to see more and more, through experience and my own research (see anything by Lorna Lutz Heyge and Montessorian Audrey Sillick), just how much early music experiences have to do with the formation of the child as an individual and how (even in those pre-natal months) these encounters with the world of music help to prepare the individual for learning.

Experiences such as the early singing or chanting (possibly of folk songs or nursery rhymes) of the mother, father and/or other significant adults from when the child is in the womb up until the age of three or so, have such a tremendous effect on communicating with the child such things as human connection, a sense of belonging, integration into the family environment and even the transfer of culture from adult to child.

Singing with and to, playing rhythm games, and making up inane rhymes and joyful tunes – these all help prepare the child for learning and receiving what the world has to offer them, and indeed, what they have to offer the world.

So, should I be getting a specialist to do this with my child? Possibly, if you're wanting your 3-year-old to be NZSO (New Zealand Symphony Orchestra) material only! Realistically my answer is no – you are the best person to give these early experiences to your child. You, the significant adult, are best able to communicate the joy of life to your own child.

If we all did this a little more with our children, rather than being scared of stuffing it up or singing out of tune (because that actually doesn't matter for real, heart music), I can't help but imagine what a different place we'd help create.

I realise I have focused a lot here on talking about the early years. You may be saying "Well, it's too late for that!" In some senses, once the child gets past certain sensitive periods in life, the full potency of those periods can never be fully recovered.

But I sincerely believe it is never too late to begin doing music with your child. Any such activity can only help to increase both your child's and your own sense of joy in life.



Joel is one of the 9–12 teachers in Tōtara class. He has been teaching since 2009 and at Wā Ora since the beginning of 2014. He completed his AMI 6-12 training in 2016. Joel loves teaching 9-12 year old children – their energy and enthusiasm can be both catching and inspiring. In his spare time he loves playing music, reading books, bush-walking and spending time with his family.

Sport

Weet-bix TRYathlon 2020



Registrations open this Wednesday 28th August for kids aged 7–15 years. For complete details please check out [here](#).

A school group has been created for next year's Hutt City event on Thursday 12th March. To be included in the school group, click [here](#). We'll organise a marquee for the day so we have a place to sit together. Please note, that you will be responsible for your child on this day; this is not a school trip. Please e-mail [Anna](#) with any queries.

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 7th September

9am – 12noon

Aubane Farcy	Ava Hunt-Ingledeu
Evelyn Randal	Adelaide Rives Jonquille
Zoe Rothbaum	William Robbers
Rose Russell	Kate Schlup
Conor Sicut	Grayson Sellers
Karun Sologar	Adam Spurgeon
Gracien Stapp	Jessica Stokes
Beau Sweeney	Finnigan Strickland
William Taylor	Luca Sutherland
Amelia Taylor	Dylann Sweeney
Maia Teng	India Thornber
Elspeh Pottstock- Nichols	
Sailesh Prasanna Pabmanabhan	

Lost property overflowing

Please check the rack in the hallway at the Rātā class end of the deck for your child/ren's clothes as it is full to overflowing. Remember also to name your child/ren's clothing to ensure they can be rehomed easily if lost. Thank you☺

REMINDER: 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. Thank you for your cooperation with this matter.

Production USB sticks for sale

USB sticks with both Wednesday and Thursday production performances and various photos can now be ordered from the school office for \$22 each until 3.30 pm Monday 9th September. Payment is by cash, eftpos or internet banking to this school BoT account # 12-3209-0438306-00 with surname and 'PRODUCTION USB' as reference. USB sticks will be available to collect from the office on Monday 16th September.

PRACTICE lockdown tomorrow

We are holding a lockdown drill TOMORROW at 1.30 pm for the whole school. We will alert parents via email and the school communications app that we are in a practice lockdown situation and notifications will say 'PRACTICE Lockdown Drill'. You will not need to do anything, but please be aware that your child will not be able to leave for any appointments during this practice lockdown (between 20–30 minutes). To receive emergency notifications via the school app, please ensure you have the downloaded the app. This can be done via this [link](#).

PTA AGM– Notice of AGM



Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Wā Ora Montessori PTA will be held on Thursday, 12th September at 3.45 pm in Tōtara classroom.

As per our Constitution, the officers of the association are elected at each AGM. The positions of Chairperson (currently held by Andrea Thompson) and Treasurer (currently held by Jen Humphries) are available for election.

If you are interested in either position, please attend the meeting as elections will occur on the day. If you can't attend the meeting and are interested in a role or have questions, please email the [PTA](#).

Quiz Night – get your tickets!



Only 3 weeks to go! Saturday 14th September 7 pm start. Tickets \$20 each /\$200 for a table of 10 from the office. R18 event with eftpos/cash bar and food. Don't miss out—we sold out last year:-)

Abacus fundraiser – order forms out next week

We are again offering these calendars, sketch pads, diaries, mouse mats and card packs to parents with children's artwork/photo on them. These make a great gift for extended family and are affordably priced.

Order forms will be given out/in your preschool mail pocket next week and are due back by Friday 27th September.

Kawakawa market

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Breaking News

Kawakawa market is moving!

When: Fridays, from week 6

Where: high school campus

Time: 7:45 – 8:45AM

How: Free shuttle services from 7:40 to 8:40 AM

Our new market brings all our groups together so you can enjoy coffee and food while browsing our homemade items. The market offers coffee, drinks, various foods, cosplay items, candles and several other fun items.

Debating results



The final interschool debate against St Bernards happened last week with the Wā Ora teams winning both, and with Amelia, Kate, Charlotte and Yahvi also getting top speaker awards. Congratulations to all!

Mindset Magicians – developing 'can do' kids.

Special offer! \$5 for a one-hour session at The Spot, 651 Fergusson Drive, Upper Hutt delivering fun, engaging and easy tools and techniques to help kids and teens feel calm, confident and cope with challenges. Monday 2nd September 3.30 pm–4.30 pm for ages 6–10 and 5 pm–6 pm for ages 11–14. Thursday 5th September 7 pm–8 pm for ages 15+ (includes tools for managing exam nerves). Please contact Diana at info@mindsetmagicians.com, call/text 021 230 3446 or book [online](#). Sponsored by Arts a Go Go! Performing Arts School for Kids.

