

Diary Dates

Coming up . . .

- Wednesday 11th September **preschool parent education evening** 7 p.m. Kōwhai class
- Thursday 12th September **PTA AGM** 3.45 p.m. Tōtara class
- Saturday 14th September **PTA Quiz Night** 7 p.m. T2 high school
- Monday 16th September **6–9 trip to Belmont Regional Park** 9 a.m. departure
- Monday 16th September **BoT/Council meeting** 7 p.m. staff room
- Monday 16th – 17th September **high school parent/teacher/student interviews**
- Thursday 19th September **Kawakawa Coffee House** 7 p.m.
- Friday 20th September **Peace Day**

Quiz Night–THIS FRIDAY!



COME ON WĀ ORA! LAST CHANCE TO BUY TICKETS FOR THE WĀ ORA QUIZ!

We still **need to sell a lot more tickets** and would love a sell-out event like last year's to maximise both the fun and fundraising on the night!! You can **buy your tickets at the school office or pay online** to the PTA bank account: 03 0531 0579912 00 and reference 'SURNAME + QUIZ'. \$20/person or \$200/table. Get in behind our school and get your friends and whānau organised for a great night out, with the chance to win auctions and prizes.

This Week

Reflection on reflection

By Stuart Mason – Chemistry Teacher, High School

'Study without reflection is a waste of time; reflection without study is dangerous' – Confucius.

In the high school we spend 30 minutes a week, early on Friday afternoons, 'doing reflection'. Some students see it as a waste of time; others increasingly see value in it, but might find it an awkward classroom experience to just sit without social interaction. Amongst teachers there is consensus that reflection is an important activity to incorporate into the school day, and it is a central part of Montessori teacher education that teachers write reflections on their learning.

It is well established that for learning to be permanent and meaningful there must be space made in the learner's mind to process the learning, to compare the new learning with knowledge and understanding from before. Teachers acknowledge that a 30-minute block on a Friday isn't the most sophisticated way of providing this opportunity but having a timetable slot does give reflection the importance it deserves. Incorporating reflection time into classes might run the risk of having it side lined in the usual rush to get everything else done.

There's value in having time for quiet stillness, a mental respite from the barrage of input provided by the post-modern world. The question may remain for the reflective person, what am I supposed to do in that 30 minutes?

Zena has expertise in meditation, and runs popular sessions with Tāwari students using resonant bowls that provide the sound for reflection. Silent walking is another popular reflection activity. Activities already subsumed into the subconscious can be suitable: driving on uncongested roads could work for experienced drivers, but for new drivers there is too much of the conscious mind devoted to the activity of driving.

One school of thought argues that a meditation industry has sprung up, one that prescribes reflection as a panacea for the ills generated by a post-modern neoliberal existence: find the solutions within yourself to the anxiety generated by an unfit-for-purpose system of human existence. The conclusion here could be that we should spend reflection time plotting the revolution.

Here is my proposed NZQA-style assessment schedule for the use of reflection:

Excellence: achieves awareness of what is in the conscious mind, and the deliberate control of which ideas and feelings occupy the mind. This may allow thinking about the nature of one's existence, or reassessment involving bigger life questions, or higher creative thinking.

Merit: a functional use of reflection time in which the only activities are ones that are entirely subconscious, allowing the mind to do processing of ideas that must happen for learning to be effective, or an equivalent of the 'shower time' effect when the mind knows it will not be disturbed so is able to think through a question more deeply or creatively.

Achieved: managed to sit still without being distracted for 30 minutes.

I come to reflection with a problem to think about, so I am usually operating at Merit!

Preschool parent education evening – THIS WEDNESDAY

Please join us this Wednesday at 7 p.m. in Kōwhai class for a 'hands-on' evening of Montessori materials. Have a chance to try the materials you have heard your child talk about and seen written about in learning stories. There will also be an opportunity to ask some questions at the end of the evening. Please RSVP to the office.

Emergency response information

As a part of our ongoing reflecting on and improvement of school emergency practices and communications, we have now added a page of emergency response information to our website. Please read through this information thoroughly to familiarise yourself with how we would care for your child/ren, if an emergency situation were to happen during school hours. The page can be found here:

<http://waora.school.nz/our-school/emergency-response-info/>. Paper copies of this information are also available at the school office and the link to this page is also on the school app.

Scribe (writer) needed

We are still looking for someone to act as a scribe/writer for a Kawakawa student from time to time. The student would dictate their work to you to write down, not type. Legible handwriting would be preferred. If you feel able to help out, please email Juliette (juliette@waora.school.nz).

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.

Weet-bix TRYathlon

Registrations are now open for kids aged 7–15 years. For complete details please check out [here](#).

A school group has been created for the Hutt City event on Thursday 12th March 2020. To be included in this group make sure you select 'Yes' to 'Join the School Group' or e-mail Anna for the link. We'll organise a marquee for the day so we have a place to sit together. Note, you are responsible for your child(ren), this is not a school trip. Any queries, please e-mail tapine.waora.sportsteams@gmail.com.

PTA AGM – this Thursday 3.45 p.m.



The PTA AGM will be held this Thursday, 12th September at 3.45 pm in Tōtara

classroom. As per its Constitution, the officers of the association are elected at each AGM and 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 waorapta@waora.school.nz.

Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival



Asia New Zealand Foundation

We are celebrating Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival in the primary school over the next three weeks with a number of activities including workshops in cooking, lantern making, music performance, a period Chinese clothing show and Chinese dance. High school students will also be cooking and painting, and learning tai chi, dance and music this term and early next – a great experience for ākonga to explore Chinese culture. Thank you to the Asia New Zealand Foundation for supporting this project to help students experience Asian culture.

Primary and preschool parent/teacher/student interview links

Emails from the office with full information, have been sent today and booking links are included below for your convenience ☺.

Preschool: Monday 23rd – Wednesday 25th September:

<https://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz/code?code=88c39>;

Primary: Tuesday 24th – Thursday 26th September:

6–9:
<https://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz/code?code=vvcxs>.

Tawhai:

<https://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz/code?code=6wega>.

Tōtara: Yet to be confirmed

Preschool Holiday Programme

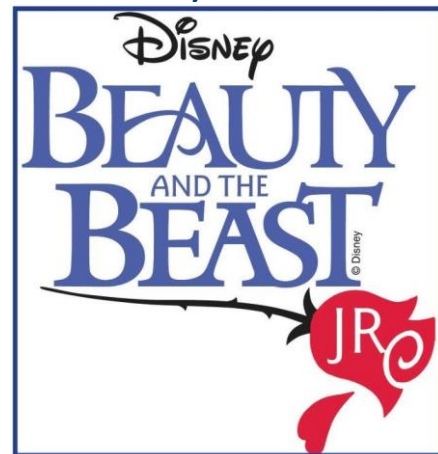
Bookings are now open for the school holiday programme, operating from 9 a.m.–3 p.m. (after school care is available from 3 p.m.–5 p.m. at the normal term charges—there will be no before school care). The programme costs \$175 per week and morning tea is included but you will need to provide lunch as per our food procedure. Please contact anna@waora.school.nz if you have any questions or would like to book.

Abacus fundraiser



We are again offering these calendars, sketch pads, diaries, mouse mats and card packs to parents with children's artwork/photo on them. Order forms went out last week and are due back to the office by Friday 27th September. Payment can be made at the office by cash/efpos or online to the school account # 12-3209-0438285-00 with surname and 'ABACUS' as reference. These make a great gift for extended family and are affordably priced. Prices are as follows: Calendars \$14, cards \$16, diaries \$18, mouse mats \$16 and sketch pads \$16.

School holiday entertainment



Some of our Wā Ora students are participating in this show ☺. An ACTING OUT production on 3rd–6th October at Wainui high school auditorium. Tickets cost \$5 and can be purchased at Clive's Chemist, Queen Street, Wainuiomata or at <https://www.facebook.com/ActingOutNZ/>.