

Diary Dates

Coming Up . . .

- Thursday 6th February **Waitangi Day Holiday** – SCHOOL CLOSED
- Friday 7th February **Kawakawa students home** from Odyssey
- Monday 10th February **Kawakawa students’ day off** in lieu of Waitangi Day
- Wednesday 12th February **school accounts 1st instalment due**
- Friday 14th February **School photos**
- Saturday 15th February **Working bee** 9 am–12 noon

Welcome to the following students and their families...

- Kōwhai** – Tom Tom Woodson
- Pōhutukawa** – Charlotte Denton and Beau Blake
- Nīkau** – Luna Rama

Working bee



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

Saturday 15th February

9 am – 12 noon

Molly Allan-Heath	Esra Alsadah
Jay-Ming Angus-Wen	Finn Anquetil
Nitya Amaravathi	Theresa Ashley
James Anderson	Evan Atkinson
Ethan Anderton-Gough	Miguel Barretto
Oliver Aukett-Ascoli	Max Beck
Madeleine Bailey	Lauren Bennett
Graydon Barstow	Tyre Berney
Isabelle Bradshaw-Ross	Mischa Blake
Aotea Bramley-Owens	Ben Brough
Rosa Buescher	

This Week

Tikanga in the classroom

By Krista Kerr – Pōhutukawa teacher

I am often asked as a teacher, “What can I be doing at home to be more aligned with school?” In answering this I usually talk about topics related to the special Montessori character of our kura; such things as allowing independence, providing order and consistency, having freedoms and responsibilities, etc.

However, another part of what we do and how we are at Wā Ora is related to bi-culturalism. Individual akomanga (classrooms) and te kura as a whole adhere to certain tikanga, which children easily and naturally absorb and follow.

An excerpt from <https://hakatours.com/blog/cultural-dos-and-donts> explains: *“Generally speaking, tikanga are Māori customary practices or behaviours. The concept is derived from the Māori word ‘tika’ which means ‘right’ or ‘correct’ so, in Māori terms, to act in accordance with tikanga is to behave in a way that is culturally proper or appropriate.”*

A lot of tikanga are based on the Māori concept of Tapu and Noa.

“Tapu can be interpreted as “sacred” but also “not ordinary”, “special” or even forbidden. It is one of the strongest forces in Māori culture. People, places, events and objects can be Tapu and should not be interfered with. Also, everything associated with the human body is considered tapu in Māori belief.

Noa, “ordinary” or “known” is the opposite of Tapu and refers to ordinary, everyday things such as food.”

Some of these tikanga include taking shoes off before entering a class (to leave the puehu or dust we carry from the outside world at the door); not sitting or putting hats on tables, especially tables which are used for kai; saying a karakia before eating kai; and not touching a head of a child, unless invited to – this relates to the head being a very important part of the body (tapu). Using different cloths for different purposes is another example – we have different cloths for a table, for the floor and for bodies, such as hand towels. These are only used for their specific purpose and washed separately.

If you do come into an akomanga and are politely asked, for example, not to sit at a table or to remove your shoes, and do not know the reasons behind this, please do ask.

To many, the tikanga adhered to in kura can be just as mystifying as some of the Montessori materials and philosophies we have, but both are great conversation starters and learning opportunities.

Some of you may already have similar tikanga at home or you may have different tikanga based on your own culture and customs. Just as I am sharing our Wā Ora tikanga with you so that you have an understanding of why we do some of the things we do, we love to hear more about your tikanga (what happens in the home lives of ngā tamariki) so that we can appreciate what is important to you and your way of being.



Krista Kerr joined Wā Ora as an assistant teacher in 2008. Two years later she moved with her family to London to complete the AMI 3-6 Diploma, followed by the Post Diploma Observation Course, returning in 2012 to take up her current position. She especially enjoys the three year cycle in Montessori education which allows teachers to build strong relationships with tamariki and their whānau. She has two sons at Wā Ora and enjoys bush walking and seeing different parts of New Zealand

Sport**Touch rugby**

If you are interested in your child (aged 5–12 years old) playing touch rugby this term, please complete the registration form [here](#)

(<https://drive.google.com/open?id=10TelmXw64KIVz8CkAssXE8XET9f0t5Qg5EzUj3SjiA>) by Monday 10th February, or e-mail tapine.waora.sportsteams@gmail.com.

Games start Thursday 20th February and run for six weeks, played at Fraser Park. Further information is in the registration form and on classroom doors.

School photos**SAY CHEESE!**

School photos will be happening next week on Friday 14th February. An email has been sent to caregivers this afternoon explaining

the new online process for ordering class and individual photos. If you wish to order a sibling photo, you will still need to pick up an order form from the school office and complete and return it by Thursday 13th February.

Does your child regularly leave school early for activities?

If you regularly pick up your primary and/or high school student(s) from school earlier than the normal 3.30 pm finish time, you must notify both the office and your child's teacher by email. Your email should advise all of the dates this will be happening. If your arrangements change, you need to keep the office updated via email. Thanks for your help with this.

Preschool parents signing

Even though caregivers are digitally signing their children into preschool each morning, caregivers still need to sign their child's attendance on a weekly basis on the clipboard in the school office – this is a Ministry requirement. There are many parents outstanding from last year still, so please pop into the office as soon as possible to catch up your signing.

School accounts payments**School Accounts**

Wā Ora accounts are moving to email and will be emailed this week. While due dates for payment and instalment arrangements remain the same, there is a change to some of the details for area school payments from those that were stated in last week's newsletter. Please note the following:

account 12-3209-0438285-00 (council)

- Preschool tuition fees
- Primary and high school term donations
- All annual fees (including MANZ, civil defence and yearbook)
- After and before school fees

account 12-3209-0438306-00 (BoT)

- Activities fees (primary and high school)
- Camps payments
- Odyssey payments
- Sports subs

Please remember to put your child/rens' first & last name/s as the reference.

You can also refer to the bank account at the bottom of each invoice/statement.

If you have children in the area school, you will receive two invoices, one for each bank account. If you pay by instalment, please just check in with Donna before you pay the first account.

Payments can be made by internet banking, cash, cheque or eftpos (savings/cheque) at the office and in the future area school accounts will be able to be paid by credit card via Paystation (incurring a surcharge).

Instalment dates are as follows:

- 1st Instalment –Wednesday 12th February
- 2nd Instalment – Wednesday 26th February
- 3rd Instalment – Wednesday 11th March

Scholastics book orders

Scholastics brochures have been given out/ are in preschool pockets. Orders are due online by next Thursday 13th February. Scholastics have a great selection of reading ideas for your child and when you purchase, you are helping the school to increase its library with free books.

School is closed on Thursday for Waitangi Day – enjoy the break**Sasada Music guitar lessons**

Are you looking for guitar lessons for your child? Jacob in Tōtara attends a lesson every Tuesday at 5 pm at Sasada Music in Waiwhetu, Lower Hutt. There are currently 2 spaces available at this day/time. Cost is \$75 for a 5-week block if there are 3 in the lesson. Get in touch with Jo in the office if you're interested or email joanne@waora.school.nz.

Upper Hutt City of Song Music Festival

City of Song is on this Saturday and Sunday and is raising money for Red Door Recovery and supporting local artists. Expect top-notch entertainment, quality food vendors, and a good family friendly outing all in the support of a good cause. Koha entry. More info and the entertainment lineup, can be seen at www.cityofsong.com.

Northern Forest Picnic Day

Come and see a beautiful and well-loved walk from a different perspective this Sunday 9th February, between 10 am–2 pm at East Harbour Regional Park, Burdans Gate, Eastbourne. There'll be experts stationed along the walk to Butterfly Creek to tell you stories about the area. If you're not interested, just keep moving on! This walk allows everyone to go at their own pace and there is also a fundraising picnic at Butterfly Creek so bring along some cash to grab something yummy to eat!