

Diary dates

Coming up . . .

- Monday 2nd March **9–12 camp departs**
- Wednesday 4th March **preschool parent education evening** 7 pm
- Friday 6th March **9–12 camp returns**
- Saturday 7th March **Working bee** 9 am–12 noon
- Monday 9th March **Year 7 Technology (make-up day)** 9 am Avalon Int School
- Monday 9th March **Kauri class trip** to Te Papa
- Wednesday 11th March **2nd instalment school accounts** due
- Wednesday 11th March **Rātā and Pūriri classes trip** to Te Papa
- Wednesday 11th March **6–9 parent education evening**

Welcome to the following students and families...

Rewarewa – Luna Latour
Kōwhai – Kyla Hurdle

Working bee



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

Saturday 7th March 9am – 12noon

Max Beck	Nea Blackham
Sian Campbell	Nell Boucheny
Abby Budge	Kaitlyn Burtenshaw
Jaya Cope	Neo Carter-Knight
Keilan Cross	Benjamin Chandrasahen
Sophie Denton	Hanne Dansted
Xervier Doney	Joshua Deacon
Harry Eathorne	George Double
Enzo Estrada	Lincoln Dutfield
Ella Fa'afua	Charlie Eastall
Lucia Falconer	Danae Enyedi- Laing
Lorelei Fetting	Loretta Evans-Velazquez
Svetlana Fisher	Aubane Farcy

This week

Freedom and responsibility in a primary classroom

By Carol Palmer–Tawhai Teacher

Wander into a Montessori primary school class at any given moment and you might see small groups of tamariki working quietly with books and materials accompanied by the gentle hum of focused discussion. You may also see a cacophony of tamariki researching, experimenting, recording and chattering excitedly about their intentions and discoveries. Both of these scenes everything in between are signs of a well-functioning Montessori class. But there are also times when tamariki become chaotic, distracted and side-tracked, or simply drawn to do something that is not in their educational interest.

Dr. Maria Montessori said, "To let the child do as he likes, when he has not yet developed any powers of control, is to betray the idea of freedom."

In a Montessori setting, we tend not to have structured times and the students are free to choose what to do and when to do it. In order to create a busy gentle hum, we have strategies to ensure that we do not lose the child to chaos (too often!) We do this by offering the right amount of freedom with the right amount of responsibility.

While the application of the theory will vary slightly between classes and children, all Montessori kaiako use a few basic strategies to facilitate the child's independent learning adventure. These are:

Conferencing: Teachers meet regularly with each child, sometimes individually, sometimes in groups, either formally or informally. Phrases like 'we'll get back together in a few days to talk about how this mahi (work) is going' creates the understanding that the child is responsible for doing the work but also ensures an understanding that we will come together to reassess and evaluate progress.

Work journals: Children record their work each day, which is assessed by the teacher and child together and their work choices, use of time and lesson needs evaluated. Additional supports such as Work Plans, To Do Lists and Work Menu can be included.

Community expectations: Montessori classes have a LOT of rules, set mostly by the children during community meetings. These meetings allow them play an active part in the running of their community; understanding the purpose behind a rule (since they have all discussed and agreed upon each rule), makes them far more likely to follow it.

So how do we achieve the balance between enabling a child to find their own educational pathway and letting them do what they want? With difficulty! For kaiako, it is an art of constant observation, reflection and refinement. Dr. Maria Montessori spoke a lot about the role of the adult, which is to ensure that each child has sufficient challenges to keep them engaged and productive but also to ensure they have enough time in between to follow their own interests.

These strategies can help you as a parent understand what is going on in your child's class. When trying to make sense of the cacophony you may see or hear, try asking: what did you record in your journal today? What was your favourite lesson? What is on your To Do List? What work did you last discuss with your teacher? What are you researching? How are you managing your freedom? Are you making good choices?

Using the same language they are used to hearing in school also helps children reflect on their own learning which gives them a greater sense of freedom and responsibility.

Sport**Touch Rugby**

Pūkeko (Y1/2) v Boulcott Eagles, 4–8.

Kererū (Y3/4) v Dyer Street Dynamos, 5–6.

Kōkako (Y5/6) v Naenae Magic (girls), 10–4.

Weka (Y5/6) vs Rata Street 5 (girls), 4–8.

Parent Teacher Interviews

We can confirm dates for parent teacher interviews this term as follows:

Preschool: Week 11, Monday 6th–Wednesday 8th April.

6-9 Primary: Week 11 – Tuesday 7th–Thursday 9th April.

Tawhai and Tōtara 2: Week 11, Tuesday 7th–Thursday 9th April.

Tōtara 1: Week 10, Tuesday 31st March–Thursday 2nd April.

Kawakawa: Week 10, Monday 30th March–Tuesday 31st March.

Please note that Tāwari is yet to be confirmed.

Parent education evenings**Preschool:**

This Wednesday 4th March our preschool education evening will be held. Come and join us in Pōhutukawa class to enjoy our topic: The importance of the third year in preschool—how we prepare ngā tamariki for Montessori primary.

Even if your child is not in their third year, come along and hear about what to expect when they are. Please RSVP to this email for catering purposes.

Primary:

The primary school will hold its parent education evening next Wednesday 11th March. More information will follow soon 😊.

High school:

We are proud to host the ACC sponsored 'Mates and Dates' team this term, who will present their programme to both Kawakawa and Tāwari students. There will also be an evening presentation for whānau on Tuesday 17th March at 7 pm in T2. For more information about this programme, please visit <https://www.matesanddates.co.nz/>.

Term dates for 2020

Term 1—Wednesday 29th January–Thursday 9th April

Term 2—Tuesday 28th April–Friday 3rd July

Term 3—Monday 20th July–Friday 25th September

Tuesday 4th August—Teacher Only Day for primary and high school

Thursday 27th August—Teacher Only Day for whole school

Friday 28th August—Mid-term Break for whole school

Term 4—Monday 12th October–Tuesday 9th December (whole school)

Tuesday 17th November—Teacher Only Day for primary and high school

Scholastics reminder

Scholastics orders have arrived and are waiting to be collected from the school office:-)

Younger sibling pre-enrolments

If you are a parent of a child currently attending Wā Ora and have a younger child (under 3-years-old) who you would like to attend, please see Emma Schrader in the school office to collect an application form for their enrolment. Our numbers are filling up steadily for upcoming cohorts and this helps us to plan.

Preschool playground after school

A request for parents of preschoolers who use the preschool playground after school between 3 pm and 3.30 pm: Can you please help us foster good relations with our neighbours, who have noticed small stones being thrown over the back fence into their properties, by monitoring your tamariki at this time.

Preschool lunch assistant sought

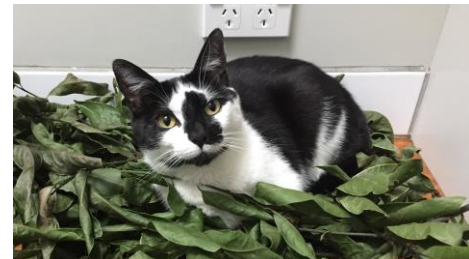
We are looking for a lunch assistant in the preschool to work on a Wednesday from 12 noon –1 pm during term time. If you are interested please call, visit or email (anna@waora.school.nz) our preschool DP Anna.

Lost Puma sneakers

Jasmine Chapman is missing a pair of new puma shoes, lost probably around Tawhai class on Friday of last week. Black, size 7 women's with pink puma writing on back. Please contact mum Annaliase on 021 234 6207 if you have spotted them.

Transport to/from school needed

We are looking for families or teachers who live in Wellington city who would be interested in giving a ride to Charlie and Jordan Goldberg to school each day. We live in Newlands but also willing to meet somewhere convenient for teachers or families on their way to Wā Ora from the city. We are happy to contribute to fuel costs and open to other arrangements such as a shuttle share, etc. If you can help, please contact Jessica Goldberg on 021 337 010.

New home needed for Wallace

While we've had some kind offers to rehome Wallace, unfortunately they have not worked out and so we are still looking for a new home for her for when we move to the UK. Wallace is six years old, friendly, quite playful and such a sweetie – settling into middle age very nicely. She is microchipped. Please contact me on richard.year@yahoo.com if you would like to talk more about it. And yes you can give her a new name!

Elements nature based play

Are you looking to give your children a different experience these school holidays? Think huts, ropes, tools, water play, mud and

paint! We have a great mix of planned experiences and play throughout our days. For more information on our variety of school holiday programmes and dates, please visit our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/elementsprogrammes/> or join our email list elementsprogrammes@gmail.com. To book register at <https://elements.aimyplus.com> putting 'Elements NZ' as the 'school'.