

Diary dates

Coming up . . .

- Wednesday 11th March 3rd instalment school accounts due
- Wednesday 11th March Rātā and Pūriri classes trip to Te Papa
- Wednesday 11th March 6–9 parent education evening 7 pm in Kauri class
- Thursday 12th March Weetbix Tryathlon
- Monday 16th–Thursday 19th March primary swimming 12.30 pm–2.30 pm
- Monday 16th March BoT/Council meeting 7 pm
- Monday 16th PTA meeting 7 pm Brew'd Boulcott
- Tuesday 17th March high school parent education evening 7 pm
- Thursday 19th March year 7 technology 9 am Avalon Int School
- Thursday 19th March Kawakawa market opening festival 2.30 pm at the high school
- Thursday 19th 9–12 parent education evening

Parent education evenings

PARENT EDUCATION EVENING

6–9: The 6–9 primary will hold its parent education evening tomorrow (Wednesday 11th March) in Kauri class. This term's topic is 'The Psychological Characteristics of 6–9 year olds' and will cover 1st to 2nd plane (transition from preschool to primary), social and emotional aspects of this age group, what being part of the 6–9 community looks like and the going out programme. Please RSVP to your child's teacher if you plan to attend.

High school: We are proud to host the ACC sponsored 'Mates and Dates' team for an evening presentation to whānau next Tuesday 17th March at 7 pm in T2. For more information please visit <https://www.matesanddates.co.nz/>. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to thomas@waora.school.nz.

This week

Every child a taonga

By Ava Szabo–Principal

Kia ora whānau.

Welcome to week 7. What a lovely weekend we have had. I hope you managed to get out and enjoy the sunshine.

Thank you to the PTA for organising our recent Twilight Picnic. It was a lovely evening and a great opportunity to relax at the end of a busy week.

As I was catching up on reading during the last week I came across a recent Ministry of Education publication on early childhood – an early learning action plan for 2019–2029. The title of this document caught my attention.

He taonga te tamaiti

Every child a taonga

It is a powerful statement and one I am sure would resonate with Maria Montessori if she were alive today. As I investigated further I found that the vision for early learning was stated as:

A belief that every child is a precious taonga, born with the inherent potential for growth and development and with enduring connections to their ancestors and heritage.

This belief is expressed in the whakatauki: 'He purapura I ruia mai I Rangiātea e kore e ngaro'. *A seed sown in Rangiātea will never be lost.*

This statement regarding 'an inherent potential for growth and development...' aligns to our Montessori philosophy. Maria Montessori believed that, 'Early childhood education is the key to the betterment of society'. She believed that childhood constitutes the most important element of an adult's life, for it is in the early years that the man is made.

Montessori honoured the child and believed that to give the child the ability to grow and develop without the interference of the adult was to provide an environment that allowed the child to develop freely. She knew that the most important aspect of the environment is that it is accessible to the child at the age and stage they are at, and only when this is achieved will the child be able to develop his personality.

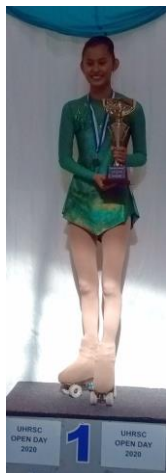
It is heartening to see that current thinking in early childhood education now also recognises the importance of the first 1000 days of a child's development as being of particular significance, and highlights the need for positive social and emotional experiences for a child to achieve optimal development. Whānau are key; they are the protectors of the child.

Montessori saw that parents had an important mission. They are the only ones who can save their children by uniting and working together for the improvement of society (Maria Montessori, *The Secret of Childhood*).

At three years of age, the child has already laid the foundations of the human personality and needs the special help of education in the school. The acquisitions he has made are such that we can say the child who enters school at three is an old man. (Maria Montessori)

Sport

Roller skating



Congratulations to year 13 student Rose Russell who competed over the weekend at the CSW event and won 1st place in novice 2 figures, 5th in preliminary free skating and 3rd in preliminary solo dance. Rose is also in the open mini precision team (Upper Hutt Rollers) and the large show team (Revolution), both of which placed 1st.

Touch Rugby

Pūkeko (Y1/2) v Koraunui Paua, 7–5.
Kererū (Y3/4) v Naenae Sharks, 4–8.
Kōkako (Y5/6) v Weka, bye (on camp)

Can you help?

Pūriri teacher assistant Kathy Illsey's car was hit yesterday between 11.15 am and 3.30 pm while parked on Waddington Drive, on the school side of the road, slightly past the staff car park entrance (across from house #203). The car has been damaged on the driver's side door, front side panel and front light. Sadly, no contact details have been left. If you saw anything that might help identify who did this, please email kathy@waora.school.nz or see Kathy in Pūriri class.

Parent Teacher Interviews

Parent Teacher Interviews

Parent teacher interviews are this term as follows:

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

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

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

Tōtara 2: Week 11, Monday 6th–
Wednesday 8th April.

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

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

Tāwari: Week 9, Monday 23rd– Tuesday
24th March.

The link for booking Tāwari interviews has been emailed and sent via the school app. Links for all other classes will be emailed and sent via the app two weeks prior to the interviews.

PTA meeting – all welcome



The PTA is getting together on Monday 16th March, 7 pm–8.30 pm, at Brew'd Boulcott, 669 High Street to discuss 2020 plans. All whānau are welcome to come along. Any support, no matter big or small is gratefully received.

Scholastics brochures

Scholastics brochures are in pockets/have now been given out, and orders are due by Thursday 19th March.

Wā Ora whānau survey

Thank you to all whānau who have already gone online to complete this year's whānau survey. This is an important part of how the school collects feedback and helps us to review our practices and refine these where necessary. Every member of the Wā Ora community has an important and valuable opinion so if you have not yet completed a survey, there is still time. This link

(<https://forms.gle/Bza7BNqChoaUtRbK8>) will take you directly to it. The survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete. Feedback will be shared with the school community after it has been reviewed at the close off of the survey.

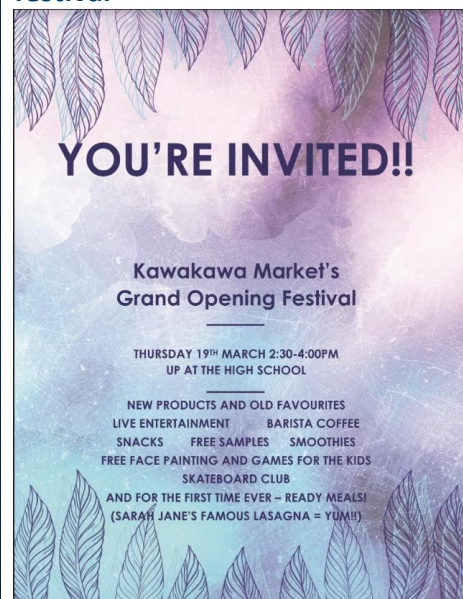
Younger sibling pre-enrolments

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.

Kawakawa market grand opening festival

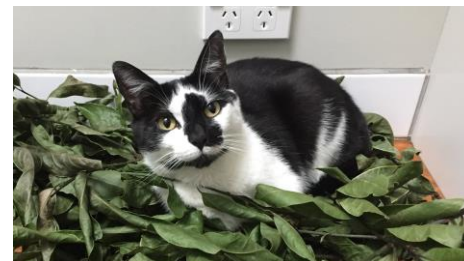


Baring Head Open Day



Come and explore Baring Head and the lighthouse and lighthouse keeper cottages this Saturday 14th March. Greater Wellington Regional Council will be providing buses/shuttles for those who don't have transport departing from the Wainui Library. So celebrate the amazing people who volunteer and work in this space and come along to hear all about their stories and this amazing landscape. For full details of buses, please go to the eventfinda listing <https://www.eventfinda.co.nz/2020/bari-ng-head-open-day/lower-hutt>.

New home needed for Wallace



A message from Kawakawa teacher Richard: we are still looking for a new home for our cat Wallace for when we move to the UK. She is six years old, friendly, quite playful and such a sweetie – settling into middle age very nicely. She is also 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!