

Diary dates

Coming up . . .

- Thursday 28th May **year 7 technology**
- Thursday 28th May **Preschool parent teacher interviews** 3.10 pm–5.30 pm
- Monday 1st June **Queen’s Birthday holiday–SCHOOL CLOSED**
- Tuesday 2nd June **Preschool parent teacher interviews** 3.10 pm–7.10 pm
- Wednesday 3rd June **Preschool parent teacher interviews** 3.10 pm–5.30 pm
- Thursday 4th June **year 7 technology**
- Tuesday 9th June **year 7 technology** (catch up session)

Wā Ora Council AGM



You are warmly invited to this year’s Council AGM which is scheduled for 22nd June at 7:30 pm as a Zoom meeting. The AGM is a great opportunity to learn more about the school’s initiatives, achievements and the current financial situation. Please email hayley@waora.school.nz by Thursday 18th June if you would like to join the meeting. The meeting agenda and invite will be sent out before the AGM.

2020 term dates

- Term 2:** finishes on Friday 3rd July.
- Term 3:** Monday 20th July –Friday 25th September.
- Term 4:** Monday 12th October– Wednesday 9th December.

This week

How the Montessori approach is helping us at this time

By Anna McLean – Preschool Deputy Principal

Who could have predicted the impact to our daily lives in the last two months? As adults, some of us have had to undertake a major shift in the way we work. Working from home, holding meetings via Zoom and managing to separate work from home life and much more!

Now that preschool is open, it is worthwhile looking at how Montessori philosophy has played a part in preparing tamariki for the changes they have been experiencing.

One of the big changes at school is asking whānau to drop off and pick up their tamaiti at the gate. For the most part, we have seen the confident way that tamariki have been coming in the gate and heading to their classroom. They have to take off their shoes, hang up their bags and coats and make their own way into the class, sometimes on their own. And they have been doing it!

Montessori talked about education being an aid to life. The lessons in practical life prepare tamariki to be independent. From the start of preschool at age three, our tamariki are shown how to look after themselves through the lessons of self-care. The dressing frames help them to learn how to do up buttons, zips, domes and eventually how to tie bows. When a tamaiti has not learnt one of these skills, there is always an expert who can help them!

One of the very first lessons a tamaiti receives is handwashing where they are shown, step by step how to wash their hands properly. Through grace and courtesy lessons (small group lessons focusing on one action) we are able to introduce and reinforce the etiquette of how to cough into your elbow, blow your nose, how to change our greetings from handshakes to elbow bumps, how to say excuse me if you are walking past someone. These group lessons can be used to introduce a wide range of behaviours that need to be explicitly taught.

Throughout the day, tamariki have been carrying on with their mahi (work) in the same way as they would have done prior to Covid-19. Preschool is a safe and predictable place. The routines and rituals can be adjusted to accommodate changes. Hands need to be washed more regularly. We need to be more careful around food preparation and delivery. Washing tables now has an added purpose for the tamaiti. The hardest thing tamariki have had to adjust to is the loss of independence around serving themselves kai for morning tea and lunch.

Thinking ahead to the time when whānau can come back into the preschool playground, how can the independence that we have seen from tamariki be supported now that they have shown us how capable they are?



Anna joined Wā Ora in 2018, having spent the previous 10-years teaching in a 6-12 classroom at Tawa School. She has both AMI 3-6 and 6-12 Montessori training and a Bachelor of Education Degree (Teaching) Primary from Massey University. Anna likes sharing her passion for Montessori and never tires of talking to people about it. She lives in Tawa with her husband and two older children and in her spare time likes reading and is getting used to being a gardener.

Sport

Bluelight Football Tournament



Congratulations to our year 7 and 8 students who played in the one-off football tournament run by the police just before lockdown. The team, ably coached by senior students Josh Deacon and Harry Eathorne, won the competition! Special thanks to Robert Smythe for stepping up to make the numbers.

Esports Coach

CSW have launched a League of Legends eSport competition for Y9–13 students. Wā Ora has 2 teams for which we need a coach. Please contact Emma or Sarah Jane if you are interested.

Year 7 and 8 immunisations

With the original dates for these being cancelled due to lockdown, we have just received a new date for the year Y8 Gardasil immunisations of Friday 26th June (week 11). The year 7 Boostrix will now be in term 3, date yet to be confirmed.

Wā Ora hoodies – order now



Orders are now being taken for our Wā Ora hooded sweatshirts. This year orders can be completed and submitted either via an online google order form OR on our supplier's website. The deadline for orders is Wednesday 14th June and delivery is expected the first week of term three. Full details are on the order forms.

Hoodie order via google form link (payment must be made separately): <https://forms.gle/xDCCUdQBTvknVPvSA>

Hoodie order via supplier online order form with online payment facility: <https://fundraisingidairz.org/wa-ora-montessori-school/>

Preschool parent teacher interview bookings



Bookings for the preschool parent teacher interviews are now open and can be booked via the following link: <https://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz/code?code=ccghr>. Interviews are scheduled for this Thursday 28th May (3.10 pm– 5.30 pm), next Tuesday 2nd June (3.10 pm–7.10 pm) and Wednesday 3rd June (3.10 pm–5.30 pm). The deadline for bookings is this Wednesday 27th May at 3 pm.

Notifying the office of absences

Reporting Absences



A reminder to let the school office know if your child will be absent or late via the school app, email, text or phone. **This is AS important as notifying your child's teacher** since the office has to follow up with the parents of every absent child that has not been notified to them. Thank you for your help with this.

Student attendance data to MOE

We will be sending student attendance data to the Ministry of Education weekly, at their request, from Friday 29th May. The purpose is to report to the National Crisis Monitoring Centre and government on levels of attendance during the COVID-19 period. This will inform and support Ministry planning for students and schools returning to normal operation and evaluate and report on the effectiveness of initiatives implemented by the Ministry to respond and manage its response to COVID-19.

Donations Tax Letters

All families with primary and high school students are able to claim back a portion of their 2019/20 school donations through the tax credit claim process. This process must now be completed online via the IRD website. You may collect your letter from the office (whilst adhering to our safety procedures for onsite visitors) or can request a scan to be emailed to you by Donna (donna@waora.school.nz).

Term 2 school accounts



Accounts will be emailed to families this week. The Board of Trustees has made the decision to pro rata the accounts for term 2 based on the number of weeks at school. This means that accounts will be for 7 weeks of this 12-week term.

Instalment dates are as follows:

Instalment 1: due next Wednesday 3rd June.

Instalment 2: due Wednesday 17th June.

Instalment 3: due Wednesday 1st July.

Level 2 ways of operating at Wā Ora

Until we are advised otherwise, Wā Ora will continue to operate in the same manner as we have been last week. Any changes announced to alert levels that result in us modifying our operations will be communicated to our community as soon as possible. To re-familiarise yourself with our plans, please visit our website (waora.school.nz), which now has a link on our home page to our Level 2 – COVID-19 Health and Safety Plan and Area School Protocol. Our Covid-19 Pandemic Procedure for Area and Preschool is also available in the procedures tab of the login part of the website.



Washing and drying your hands kills the virus

Wash often. Use soap. 20 seconds. Then dry. This kills the virus by bursting its protective bubble.

Find out more at [Covid19.govt.nz](https://www.covid19.govt.nz)

New Zealand Government

Unite against COVID-19