

Diary dates

Coming up . . .

- Tuesday 25th August **PTA AGM** 5 pm
Tōtara class
- Wednesday 26th August **3rd instalment school accounts due**
- Thursday 27th August **Staff only day — WHOLE SCHOOL CLOSED**
- Friday 28th August **Mid-term break — WHOLE SCHOOL CLOSED**
- Monday 31st August **Maria Montessori 150th Birthday celebration**
- Tuesday 2nd September **PRACTICE lockdown drill**
- Saturday 5th September **Working bee** 9 am–12 noon

Welcome to the following students and their families

Nīkau – Clara Sammons

Rewarewa – Theo Opie and Chloe Huang

Celebrating Maria with cake

We warmly invite whānau to come and celebrate Maria Montessori's 150th birthday with us at the end of this month next Monday 31st August at 3.15 pm in the primary playground. We'll be celebrating with birthday cake for all! More details will be out soon, but in the meantime, mark your calendar! We'll look forward to seeing you there 😊.



This week

Why look at History?

By Joel Batson—Tōtara Teacher

In these tumultuous times I thought it apt for us to take a glimpse at why we look at the area of history. Funnily enough, it was an area that either wasn't taught that well when I was a kid, or I just didn't really pay much attention to it. I wonder how it was for you growing up? Either way, I certainly didn't learn very many terribly deep lessons from history when I was young. And that's really the crux of the reason why.

In the Montessori classroom we look into history — to be specific, human history, in order to learn from what happened in the past and, hopefully, help children to think about how they might apply those lessons to their actions in the future. As the old adage goes: if you don't know your history, you're doomed to repeat it.

The way we look at history is inherent in the word itself. We use stories. We essentially look at the story of humanity. We encourage children to use their imaginations to transport themselves to other times, places and locations in order to imagine walking in the shoes of other humans, just like themselves, as they sought to meet their fundamental needs in a myriad of different ways.

Examples could include telling stories about how the first cities came together in Ancient Sumer; how it seemed that the growing of a surplus of crops in the fertile soil of the Euphrates river valley encouraged greater build-up of people living together; and how this method of living was so very different to most other people living at that time who mostly led hunter-gatherer lifestyles, living hand to mouth most months.

We might also look at the stupendous architecture of the Egyptian civilisation and what it seems was needed for those people to put together their systems of worship, governance and building. We look at what it may have been like each year as the Nile river flooded its banks and the fields then had to be re-marked out with a clever system of maths that gave the Egyptians extremely accurate corners. So accurate, that the same system seems to have been used to build the pyramids themselves.

From these sorts of stories, the emphasis is really on how it was that these humans met their needs. What we mainly find is that for these humans to have achieved such wonders as building the pyramids, organising themselves into civilisations, figuring out planting fruitful crops or finding food in harsh conditions, the thing they most often had to have figured out to achieve all of those amazing feats is cooperation. Just how do 2, 3, 4 and more different people get along with each other effectively in order to achieve a common goal that ends up being good for everyone in the picture?



Joel is one of the 9–12 teachers in Tōtara class. He has been teaching since 2009 and at Wā Ora since the beginning of 2014. He completed his AMI 6–12 training in 2016. Joel loves teaching 9–12 year old children — their energy and enthusiasm can be both catching and inspiring. In his spare time he loves playing music, reading books, bush-walking and spending time with his family.

** A note re school events and Covid-19**

With the Covid situation being one that continually evolves, we will make decisions regarding cancelling/postponing school events in a timely manner and with the most up-to-date information available. If it becomes necessary to cancel a school event, due to a change in alert levels, we will endeavour to give adequate notice and to communicate any changes with whānau via all of our communication channels. We acknowledge these are stressful times for our community and thank you for your understanding as we strive to find ways that continue to allow our whānau to connect, yet also keep our community safe.

Sport

Badminton

Wā Ora junior girls v SOC 3, win by default.

Wā Ora senior 1 v Silverstream 3. Wā Ora senior 2 v Naenae 5.

Cross country — LHPSSA Interzones

This has been rescheduled to this Friday, 28th August. Parents of students participating, please check your inbox for details!

eSports

Wā Ora v St Pats, 0–2.

Miniball

Wā Ora Magic v Korokoro Warriors, 10–6.

Netball

Wā Ora Tui v Sts Peter and Paul 1 Kiwis, 18–12.

Congratulations to Alexander Lambie White on passing his L1 umpiring practicum.

School sports T's

There are still a few sports T's that have not been returned. Please check with your child and return to the school office asap. Shirts not returned will be billed for.

Working bee



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

**Saturday 5th September
9 am – 12 noon**

Gabriel Opie	Dylann Sweeney
Eva Lamb	Beau Sweeney
Quynh-Nhu Ho	William Taylor
Matilda Howe	Amelia Taylor
Vanya McCurdy	Maia Teng
Samantha Hurdle	India Thorner
Scarlett Sheridan	Jania Marcelo
Finlay Smith	Emily Drumm
Callum Smyth	Chyoe Thean
Rome Soutar	Hemi Thompson
Jonathan Spurgeon	Ashton Tietjens
Gracien Stapp	Sailor Trapp
Jessica Stokes	Joel Tregaskis
Finnigan Strickland	Samuel Trojca
Sebastian Toilolo- Meijn	

PTA AGM – tomorrow night



Parents/caregivers/school staff are invited to join us for a complimentary drink and nibbles at our PTA Annual General Meeting tomorrow evening, Tuesday 25th August at 5 pm in Tōtara class.

PTA Fundraiser



Purchase any of these great products **before the end of the month** and when you choose Wā Ora as your organisation to support, the PTA will receive a donation towards the class wish lists. Please share with friends and family:

https://fundraisingidairz.org/wa_ora_monessori_fundraiser/

Term 3 staff only day and midterm break — THIS WEEK

A reminder that the whole school will be closed for instruction this Thursday 27th August (staff only day) and Friday 28th August (mid-term break).

Peace Day breakfast— save the date



Whānau are welcome through the preschool gate from 8 am on Friday 18th September for some kai and a morning beverage from the coffee cart at our Peace Day breakfast.

**PRACTICE lockdown drill:
next Wednesday 2nd September**



We are holding a lockdown drill next Wednesday 2nd September at 11.15 am for the whole school. Part of our procedure is to alert parents via email and the school communications app that we are in lockdown. Next Wednesday's notifications will say 'PRACTICE Lockdown Drill'. You will not need to do anything when you receive this notice, but please be aware that if you arrive at the school to collect your child for an appointment during the practice lockdown, neither you nor your child will be able to leave until the all clear has been given (between 20–30 minutes). To receive emergency notifications via the school app, please ensure you have downloaded the app. This can be done via this [link](#). Also please ensure your mobile data is turned on, as well as banners and badges enabled.

Upcoming parent education evening

Internet health and wellbeing

We are pleased to host a further parent education evening this term on Thursday 10th September (week 8 of this term) at 7 pm at the high school. John Parsons is a leading authority on keeping children safe online and will cover such topics as online grooming, sexting, cyber bullying, learning to repel and report, future proofing for employment, screen time, sleep and more. This presentation will be relevant for anyone with children and an internet connection and is free for our whānau to attend.



Did you miss ordering a school hoodie?

If you missed out on ordering, we have child's sizes 8 and 10 hoodies (one of each size) available for purchase. These are new and unworn. The price is \$60. To purchase and for payment details, please email relda@waora.school.nz.

