

Diary dates

Coming up . . .

– Tuesday 13th–Friday 16th October

Kawakawa Service Camp

– Friday 16th October **Peace Day breakfast and celebrations** 8 am

– Monday 19th October **sports and extracurricular photos** 7.30 am

– Monday 19th October **BoT/Council meeting** 7 pm staffroom

– Wednesday 21st October **1st instalment school accounts due**

– Monday 26th October **Labour Day holiday —SCHOOL CLOSED**

Congratulations to . . .

. . . our high school math teacher David and his wife Ruth on the birth of their new daughter Beatrix. Everyone is doing well.

. . . our Kauri class teacher Samantha on her recent engagement 😊.

Welcome to the following students and their family...

Kōwhai – Bethany and Olivia Stokes

Peace Day celebrations



Whānau are warmly invited to come and share our Peace Day celebrations this Friday 16th October. From 8 am, join us for kai (toast and spreads) and a hot beverage from the coffee cart at our Peace Day breakfast in the preschool. All proceeds from Coffee Cart will be donated to the Peace Foundation. We will then head across to the primary courts for further celebrations until approximately 9.30 am.

This week

Observation

By Ava Szabo — Principal

Kia ora whānau,

Welcome to term 4. I hope you had a relaxing holiday enjoying time with family and friends. During the term break, I completed (together with several other Wā Ora staff) the Montessori primary assistant course. This was a very valuable course where we all learnt so much.

The art of classroom observation was a core component of the course. Observation is embedded in our philosophy and it provides the teacher with a deep and detailed understanding of the child. Let me explain...

What is observation?

Observation is the cornerstone of the Montessori method. It is the key to understanding the child and what the child needs at any given time. Observation is about learning how to see the inner guide of the child expressing itself. Montessori observed that all children had an inner guide and it was up to us as adults to observe this.

There are three types of observation identified by Maria Montessori — direct, indirect and self-observation.

Direct observation is where the adult sits in a specific seat designated for observing and watches. It is important that the children know while you are sitting in this chair you are unavailable for lessons, conversation or assistance. You need to make sure that where you are sitting has a good view of the room.

Indirect observation is a bit of a challenge as it involves observing while you are already engaged with children. When we observe indirectly, we are observing while we are working and we are also storing our observational data to write down later.

Self-observation is not shared with others as we do with direct and indirect observation. The key for self-observation is that we are examining ourselves. We are becoming more aware of our own needs in our environment. It is only when we are able to meet our own needs that we can meet the needs of others, in this case, the needs of the child.

Why should we observe?

There are two main goals in observation:

1. A need to understand the needs of the child and be able to respond.
2. Observation also allows us to see and remove obstacles for the growth and development of the child.

Maria Montessori said that we observe in order to prepare the environment.

Observation allows us to look beyond our own needs and the superficial behaviours of the child to understand which child requires which presentation (lesson), and at what time. We are providing for the child's inner development.

When we become good observers we also become good responders. This allows us to provide thoughtful and considered responses to children's questions and needs.

I hope this gives you a greater understanding of what observation means for your child's continued growth and development at school.

Sport**Sports and club photos**

Sports and extracurricular photos are scheduled for next Monday 19th October from 7.30–10 am at the high school. The schedule will be emailed separately.

Touch rugby in term 4

For ages 5 (or nearly 5) to 13 years old (year 8). Games are played Thursdays at Fraser Park from 29th October to 3rd December (6 weeks). Game times will be between 4 pm and 6 pm, but depend on the grade (we will get the draw for the season before the first game). Register by 16th October here:

<https://forms.gle/S6rKvUQiSgyZavZz6>.

Skills sessions are on Saturdays from 10 am–11 am at Naenae Park from 10th October to 28th November (8 weeks) and are open to anyone.

There is a fun carnival tournament on 21st November, which is optional, but we would LOVE to have at least one team there.

We are also putting together a whānau touch team, where you get to play alongside your kids! For more info, to sign up or for any queries, email Anna on tapine.waora.sportsteams@gmail.com.

2020/2021 dates

Please make sure these upcoming dates are in your diary.

Tuesday 17th November (week 6) — Teacher Only Day for area school

Wednesday 9th December (week 9) last day of school (for all sectors)

Monday 1st February 2021 — whole school starts

Monday 8th February — Waitangi Day observance — WHOLE SCHOOL CLOSED

Tuesday 9th February — Teacher only day — WHOLE SCHOOL CLOSED

Shakeout earthquake drill

Wā Ora is again a part of New Zealand ShakeOut, the national earthquake drill and tsunami hīkoi, taking place this Thursday 15th October at 9.30 am.

Chinese Mid-Autumn festival

We are having a late celebration of the Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival in the primary school over the next three weeks with a number of activities including workshops in cooking, lantern making and music performance. High school students will also be cooking, learning tai chi, dance, experiencing Chinese tea ceremony and music this term – a great experience for ākonga to explore Chinese culture. Thank you to the Confucius Institute and Asia New Zealand Foundation for supporting this project to help students experience Asian culture.

Lost property

The rack in the corridor near the sick bay is very full so please check and collect any of your child/ren's items in the next 2 weeks as it will be cleared out next Friday 23rd October.

Tāwari teacher parent student meetings

Tāwari parent teacher student meetings are scheduled for the afternoon/evenings of Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st October and will be held in Tāwari. If you haven't already, please book with this link: <https://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz/code?code=ts3sy> and use the code **ts3sy**.

Scholastics book orders

Scholastics brochures have been given out today. Online orders are due by Monday 9th November (extended order period). Scholastics have a great selection of reading ideas for your child and xmas gifts, and when you purchase, you are helping the school to increase its library with free books.

Before and after school care

Please confirm your permanent booking requirements for term 4 with the office.

Cybersafety handouts

Wā Ora hosted Cybersafety speaker John Parsons last term to talk about how to keep our children safe online. His slides and some links to material to read/watch at your leisure that support the discussion of the evening have been posted in the community facebook group. If you are not a facebook user, please email Jo in the office for the pdf.

Wā Ora Board of Trustees mid-term election

We are seeking to appoint two new trustees to our Board. Accordingly, a mid-term election has been scheduled and we are now calling for nominations. If you are an area school parent with voting rights and would like to put yourself forward as a candidate, please complete the nomination form you would have received by post last week and return to Wā Ora by Thursday 29th October. Voting papers will then be posted out on Tuesday 3rd November and must be received at the school office by Tuesday 1st December (postal votes by Sunday 6th December). The votes will be counted on Monday 7th December and results announced Tuesday 8th December.

Term 4 school accounts

Preschool invoices and area school donations requests were emailed to families last week and activities contributions will be emailed out soon. You can pay by internet, cash, cheque or eftpos (savings/cheque) at the office.

Instalment dates are as follows:

Instal 1: due Wednesday 21st October.

Instal 2: due Wednesday 4th November.

Instal 3: due Wednesday 18th November.

Further information containing account numbers and payment options, is included in the attached 'Accounts Information Letter'.

Preschool gate

Please ensure that when entering or leaving through the preschool gate you do not inadvertently let out any child/ren other than your own at the same time unless they have their parent /caregiver with them. Thank you for your vigilance.

Thinking of selling your house?

Kia ora. If, from your referral, we list and sell your home in the Lower Hutt area, we will donate \$500 to Wā Ora Montessori School. Contact us today for a no obligation appraisal. Supporting Wā Ora Montessori School. Jodie and Eugene Winterburn. Red Coats Professionals Lower Hutt. 022 462 0121 teamwinterburn@redcoats.co.nz.

