

Diary dates

Coming up . . .

- Tuesday 24th November **Y4–8 interzone athletics day**
- Wednesday 25th November **open house evening 5 pm**
- Wednesday 25th November **Year 4 transition meeting for parents 6.30 pm**
- Thursday 26th November **Year 4 sleepover @ Zealandia**
- Friday 27th November **Nīkau Thanksgiving 2.30 pm**
- Saturday 28th November **PTA Twilight Te Whiti Riser Walk 4 pm**
- Wednesday 2nd December **year 7 Boostrix and year 8 Gardasil vaccinations**
- Thursday 3rd December **Kawakawa Coffee House 7 pm**
- Friday 4th December **Kauri class visits Battle Hill**
- Friday 4th December **Rātā and Pūriri classes visit Botanic Gardens**
- Friday 4th December **Whānau Hui 5.30 pm**
- Saturday 5th December **Working Bee 9 am–12 noon**
- Monday 7th December **Kōwhai class picnic 2 pm**
- Monday 7th December **Kawakawa Big Day Out**

Term 4 open house evening



Join your child/ren and share in their learning at our open house evening for all sectors THIS Wednesday (25th November) from 5 pm–6.30 pm. Your preschool/primary child may show you a project they've been working on or demonstrate a lesson and the high school will be providing tours for whānau. Teachers will be available to answer any questions you may have. All whānau are welcome.

This week

Breathing. Part one: Aspiration

By Thomas McGrath – Deputy Principal High School

Correctly applying the Montessori Method has got to be one of the most ambitious and aspirational tasks known to humankind. If you thought school was just about writing, maths, and eating your lunch: reconsider.

Through her incredible years of international research and work with children, the education Maria Montessori believed possible was one that transcended the classroom and paved the way for a brighter future. Montessori stated that “establishing a lasting peace is the work of education ... all politics can do is keep us out of war” (Education and Peace)

Peace as described by Montessori is not just an absence of war but a deliberate and sustainable state that requires constant care and nurturing. This state is to be brought about by those who have been guided through each plane of development by a prepared adult within an appropriately prepared learning environment. For this to be effective, once through the first (and most important) plane of development (0–6) where the self is constructed, the Montessori guide in the second plane (6–12) must do nothing less than assist the child to comprehend the entire universe:

If the idea of the universe be presented to the child in the right way, it will do more for him than just arouse his interest, for it will create in him admiration and wonder, a feeling loftier than any interest and more satisfying. The child's mind will then no longer wander, but becomes fixed and can work. The knowledge he acquires is organized and systematic; his intelligence becomes whole and complete because of the vision of the whole that has been presented to him, and his interest spreads to all, for all are linked and have their place in the universe on which his mind is centred. (Montessori, To Educate the Human Potential, 1989, p. 6)

In the third plane (12–18), the work then centres on developing the personal agency and interdependence on society that is required to convert their honed understanding of the universe into work as a practising adult that will bring about the betterment of all.

The word ‘aspiration’ contains the root word ‘spiro’, which relates to the breath. To ‘aspire’ is to ‘breathe upon’. The connotations are that to achieve a large task, one breathes upon it; focusing their life's energy to it. All Montessori guides must, in their hearts, believe that what they are doing is ultimately contributing to a state of lasting prosperity and harmony amongst humanity, natural species, and the environment. So, to achieve Montessori's vision, we must inhale deeply and prepare ourselves for a lifetime of work.

Now, how do we achieve this and still stay alive? Tune in next week for part two...



Thomas moved to Wellington in 2005 to pursue academic study and after several years acting, playing music and teaching in various capacities, he began at Wā Ora in 2014. In 2017 he began as Deputy Principal of the High School and it is with pride that he is part of such an active, involved, and vibrant learning community. In his down time, Thomas likes to make great plans with his wife, play the drums and the accordion, sit quietly, read short books, listen to music, drink tea, walk his dogs and tinker in the garden of their house in Newtown.

Sport**Futsal results**

Junior Boys v St Pat's Silverstream, 9–4.

Term 1 2021 high school sport registrations

Futsal and volleyball registrations are now open. The 'sign-up' sheet is on the sports noticeboard.

Touch rugby results

Pūkeko (Y1/2) v St Michael's School.

Ruru (Y1/2) v Naenae Chiefs.

Kererū (Y3/4) v Naenae Highlanders.

Kōkako (Y5/6) v Naenae Weka.

Weka (Y5/6) v Rata Street 5.

Volleyball results

Junior Girls v Junior mixed, 3–0.

Junior Boys v St Pat's Silverstream, LBD.

Weet-bix TRYathlon

Weet-bix TRYathlon registrations are now open for kids aged 6–15 years. For complete details please paste this address (<https://tryathlon.co.nz/locations/hutt-city/>) into your browser. A school group has been created for the Hutt City event on Wednesday, 17th March 2021. To be included in the school group paste the below address into your browser (<https://www.registernow.com.au/secure/Register.aspx?E=40600&G=118734>) or search for the school when entering. We'll organise a marquee for the day so we have a place to sit together. Note that you are responsible for your child(ren), as this is not a school trip. Please e-mail Anna at tapine.waora.sportsteams@gmail.com with any queries.

Y4–8 interzone athletics

Good luck to Ashton, William T, Finnigan, Oliver and Keilan, who will represent Wā Ora tomorrow.

Invitation from Whānau Hui

Kia ora! All school families (parents and children) are warmly invited to our final hui of the year next Friday 4th December in Tōtara class at 5.30 pm. We would love to see you and share kai (food) together. Please bring a plate to share. We look forward to catching up with as many of our Wā Ora community as possible.

Transition paperwork

A reminder that transition paperwork for year 4, 7 and 10 students should be completed promptly and returned back to Emma Schrader in the main school office asap for processing☺.

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 December 9 am–12 pm

Cameron MacAulay	India Thornber
Rosemarie Owen	Praneel Patel
Neo Carter-Knight	Arthur Ha
Theo Malcolm	Luna Latour
Alexander Jamison	Anita Mead
Faith Perera-Helms	Mitchell Barber
Sophie McPherson	Marcus Zhou
Jarvis Harrison	Liam Matthews
Vaidehi Choubey	Chloe Huang
Nathaniel Logan	Clara Sammons
Kuentin Chin	Nunu Woodson
Farren McClelland	Eva Lamb

End of year concert

We warmly welcome you to our end of year concert on Wednesday 9th December starting at 11 a.m. We will again hold our concert on the primary field outside Tawhai classroom. If the weather does not choose to co-operate it will be held in T2 at the high school. BYO camping chair or picnic rug and sunscreen. The concert will end around 12.35 pm and school is then closed from 1 pm with no after school care.

PTA Te Whiti Riser walk

Join us for a family friendly walk on Saturday 28th November from 4 pm. Te Whiti Riser is low gradient, making it fun and achievable for most. There will be a sausage sizzle, face painting, hot chocolate and ice creams. Please click the link <https://tinyurl.com/twightriser> to register your interest and email ptawaora@gmail.com.

Wā Ora Board of Trustees – remember to vote

Voting for our Board of Trustees candidates closes next Tuesday 1st December. This is your last week to review the candidate statements, complete your voting paper and return inside the enclosed envelope to the school office. Results will be announced on Tuesday 8th December.

Christmas collection – donations gratefully received

We are again reaching out to you to help those in our community in need this Christmas. We are supporting Angel Tree again, an organisation helping tamariki with a parent in prison. An online donation to Angel Tree of any amount can be made at <https://hekorowaiwhakapono.nz/koha/> (but if you can manage \$50 this will cover one child for the whole year). We are also gratefully receiving donations to the Māori Women's Refuge of new, wrapped gifts for children (please label with appropriate age the gift is suitable for) and also food items and good condition second hand toys to the Pataka Aroha, a non-profit community group based in Naenae. In particular, they are asking for toys suitable for girls before the end of November, but anything you have will find a home. Collection boxes will be in the office until the end of term.

Extra yearbooks

Every family who has paid their annual fees will receive one yearbook per family at the end of this year. If you would like to order extra copies this year, please email relda@waora.school.nz with your name and the number of extra copies required by THIS Friday 27th November. Extra copies cost \$16 each and must be paid for prior to pick up.

PTA Christmas fundraiser

The PTA are offering a final fundraiser of the year of premium wines available in a 6-bottle case. Please email Colette at waorapta2020@gmail.com if you would like to order or receive more info about this or get the order form off the Wā Ora community Facebook group post.

Scholastics books

The final scholastics brochures (issue #8) have already been sent home. In order for your Scholastics books to arrive before school closes for the year, please get your orders completed online before this Friday 27th November.

Year 4 transition evening

The transition evening this year for those parents whose children are moving up to 9–12 next year is scheduled for this Wednesday 25th November at 6.30 pm in your child's new class.