

Diary Dates

Coming up . . .

- Wednesday 10th February **school accounts 1st instalment due**
- Friday 12th February **Year 7's to Technology**
- Friday 12th February **Preschool coffee morning** 8.45 am playgroup room
- Friday 12th February **Kauri class walk**
- Monday 15th February **BoT/Council meeting** 7 pm high school
- Monday 15th February **Year 7 & 8 immunisation session**
- Friday 19th February **Year 7's to Technology**
- Friday 19th **Whānau hui** 5.30 pm

Welcome to the following students and their families...

- Pōhutukawa** – Reese Huang
- Nīkau** – Florian Weaver, Abi Prasana Padmanabhan and Emme Harford
- Rewarewa** – Freddie Robinson
- Tōtara** – Niamh Byrne and Bede Thomas
- Kawakawa** – Liam Townsley, Calum Faulkner and Marlow Fraser
- Tāwari** – Cara Domonkos and Zoe Calton

PTA



Wā Ora PTA invites you to the annual Twilight Picnic on Friday 26th February 5–7 pm on the primary school grounds. BYO dinner and enjoy meeting old friends and making new ones. Bring togs and towel for the waterslide!

This Week

Whanaungatanga at Wā Ora

By Krista Kerr – Pōhutukawa teacher

As we start a new year we see each sector and individual classroom of ākonga build their new hapori (community). We all said haere rā to our oldest students at the end of last year, and last week all sectors had their mihi whakatau to welcome a new group of ākonga which was a lovely way to start whakawhanaungatanga, building up relationships and a sense of belonging.

This involves a lot of change for the group of ākonga moving into a new classroom: they are in a new environment, with a new group of peers and teachers, new materials to explore, as well as new routines and expectations to learn. On top of that, this group also has to make the adjustment of being the oldest in their previous ākomanga, to now being the youngest.

The students remaining in their class also have to change and adapt, including moving up to being ngā tuakana (the older, more experienced ākonga) who role model for others and help demonstrate the culture of their class.

To help this new hāpori form, to start the process of whakawhanaungatanga, many things happen; small and large groups are held, introductions, the telling of great stories, and the sharing of kai are some examples. It is lovely to see how these tamariki step up to fill the shoes of the older peers who have moved on, ready to help their new hoa coming in. In preschool we see our 4- and 5-year-olds welcoming in new 3-year-olds, giving them lessons and āwhina (help) when the need arises and helping them to feel a sense of belonging to their new class as they settle in.

The Māori dictionary defines whanaungatanga as “relationship, kinship, sense of family connection - a relationship through shared experiences and working together which provides people with a sense of belonging.” (<https://maoridictionary.co.nz/word/10068>)

It is not only our tamariki/ākonga that are part of the Wā Ora hapori - you as parents and whānau are too. Just as our tamariki have their roles to play in building whanaungatanga, so too do you. Some of you are parents brand new to our kura and some of you have been part of the Wā Ora whānau for many years. Some have tamariki staying in the same sector this year while others may be new to a sector as your tamaiti moves up to primary, or to high school. As a hapori you have many experiences as parents and whānau, and it is always lovely to see these being shared to welcome others. Please make the time to come to events such as parent meet ups, information evenings, twilight picnics, the Matariki concert and evening feast; all of which allows time and opportunity for whakawhanaungatanga, building relationships and the sense of connection. Ask questions, share your experiences, chat, reassure, and laugh - that is what your tamariki enjoy doing every day in their whānau kura.



Krista Kerr joined Wā Ora as an assistant teacher in 2008. Two years later she moved with her family to London to complete the AMI 3-6 Diploma, followed by the Post Diploma Observation Course, returning in 2012 to take up her current position. She especially enjoys the three year cycle in Montessori education which allows teachers to build strong relationships with tamariki and their whānau. She has two sons at Wā Ora and enjoys bush walking and seeing different parts of New Zealand

Sport

Touch rugby in term 1 2021



For ages 5 (or nearly 5) to 13-years-old (year 8). Games are played Thursdays at Fraser Park from 18th February to 25th March (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 5th February here:

<https://forms.gle/pmD2VNLjpGnZxJDs7>. Skills sessions will also be running (details TBC) and are open to anyone.

Any queries or for more information, please contact Anna on tapine.waora.sportsteams@gmail.com.

Absences, late and appointments

If your child is going to be away sick or on holiday, or has an appointment in school time, you must notify our school office. You can do this via the school app, by texting 029 770 4286, by emailing office@waora.school.nz or by leaving a message on the absences answer phone 567 2377 before 8.30 am. **PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR CHILDS FIRST AND LAST NAME AND CLASS.** If your child is away sick for more than one day, you must advise the office EACH day they are away. Also if you are picking up early or dropping off late, you must call at or text the office when your child is leaving/back.

Does your child regularly leave school early for activities?

If you regularly pick up your primary and/or high school student(s) from school earlier than the normal 3.30 pm finish time, you must notify both the office and your child's teacher by email. Your email should advise all of the dates this will be happening. If your arrangements change, you need to keep the office updated via email. Thanks for your help with this

Please name all clothing and stationery

name it

The start of the new year is a good time to name all items of clothing and stationery. Doing this also assists us to return named items to their rightful owners.

Easter dates

Term 1 is 11 weeks long this term and the last day is Friday 16th April. The whole school is closed on the following days this term:

Good Friday – Friday 2nd April
Easter Monday – Monday 5th April
Easter Tuesday – Tuesday 6th April

Who does what in admin/support



Please talk / email directly with:

Dannielle office@waora.school.nz for

- notifying of late/sick/holidays/ appointments
- afterschool care
- general enquiries

Donna donna@waora.school.nz for

- any financial questions / subsidies
- changes to preschool afternoon arrangements
- Monday–Friday 8 am–12 noon

Emma emmaschrader@waora.school.nz

- for new enrolments/transitions

Jo joanne@waora.school.nz for

- appointments to see Ava

Relda/Sharon sharon@waora.school.nz for

- passwords for school website
- Wā Ora newsletter inclusions
- Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays

Hayley hayley@waora.school.nz for

- BoT meeting minutes

Caregiver Contact Class Phone Lists

Updated Caregiver Contact Lists will be emailed home this week to preschool and 6- 9 classes. This helps with arranging playdates and contacting parents of class mates for out of school activities.

Dry Cleaning

Dry cleaning can be dropped off at the school office and it will be cleaned and delivered back to school for you to collect? It's convenient and affordable and also helps Wā Ora, who receives a percentage from the sales. Please ask the office staff for further information.

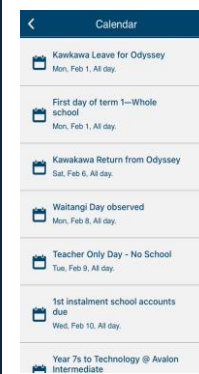
Scholastics book orders



Scholastics brochures have been given out last week. Orders are due online by next Thursday 18th February. Scholastics have a great selection of reading ideas for your child and when you purchase, you are helping the school to increase its library with free books.

Please note orders must be made online, we cannot accept cash in the office.

Parent calendar on school app and website



To keep up-to-date with when things are happening for your ākonga at school, please check in regularly with the calendar on our school app. This is kept current and dates are added/changed as we are made aware.

10-minute parking bays out front of school

The car parking spaces in front of the preschool and main school office now have a 10-minute limit on them during our busy drop off and pick up times. These spaces will be most suitable for those whānau who are dropping off/picking up preschoolers and primary students and for those with short errands at the office. We appreciate your ongoing assistance with parking considerably and safely in our neighbourhood.

Upper Hutt shuttle

We have a family who is trying to set up a shuttle service from Upper Hutt to school. If you live in Upper Hutt and are interested in some further information please contact Kate Anderson at angelnursekate@gmail.com or text 027 231 7949. Alternatively check out their Facebook page Wa Ora Upper Hutt Shuttle <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2136898166447722>

