

Diary dates

Coming up . . .

- Wednesday 24th February **school accounts 2nd instalment due**
- Wednesday 24th February **Whānau Morning Tea 9am @ Trade Kitchen**
- Friday 26th February **PTA Twilight Picnic 5-7pm**
- Friday 26th February **Year 7's to Technology**
- Monday 1st – Friday 5th February (not Wednesday) **Primary school swimming, Stokes Valley**
- Wednesday 3rd March **School photos**
- Thursday 4th March **Y8 Reading information evening**
- Friday 5th March **Year 7's to Technology**

Working bee



Please check below for your eldest child's name to attend the first working bee of the year. Contact the office with any queries.

Saturday 6th March

9am – 12noon

Esra Alsadah	Max Beck
James Anderson	Lauren Bennett
Ethan Anderton-Gough	Oliver Aukett-Ascoli
Loki Anderson	Cashel Blackham
Neharika Arunkumar	Aotea Bramley-Owens
Theresa Ashley	Nell Boucheny
Tyrei Berney	Mischa Blake
Madeleine Bailey	Rosa Buescher
Miguel Barretto	Adeline Hohnstone
Graydon Barstow	Niamh Byrne
Zoe Calton	Eva Lamb
Kaitlyn Burtenshaw	

This week

Creating a Living community

By Robin Wilkins – Pūriri teacher

I love Montessori; as a way of living, the endless opportunities that a Montessori environment offers each of us, the way that the community accepts every one as a new member. I love that the oldest students in the environment not only teach the younger ones but mentor, nurture and protect them. *“There is a great sense of community within the classroom where children of different ages work together in an atmosphere of cooperation rather than competitiveness. There is respect for the environment and for the individuals within it”.* (Dr. Montessori)

Being involved in a community of friends is vital in the growth and development of our ākonga. It is therefore important that we spend time developing practices that build community consciousness, provide support, a sense of belonging and a strong sense of self and connection. These relationships are critical for emotional stability and ability to focus on learning. Whatever time is spent on building community lays a necessary foundation for calm and peaceful academic work.

We typically begin each school year with activities that help form a bond of mutual respect and collaboration with all members of the class. We are wanting to develop a unified feeling of being a community, to develop and build a spirit of cooperation and recognition of each other's strengths and weaknesses, differences and uniqueness.

This is the time when we develop our new class treaty which ties in with learning about the 'Treaty of Waitangi' - understanding that a treaty is an agreement which helps people find a peaceful way to settle an argument or dispute. It must take into account the rights of others. It is always student-generated which promotes self-discipline. It may include statements such as “Everyone should feel included”. These treaties represent an acknowledgement by everyone that there are limits to individual freedom and actions must be based on the needs of living in a community. To signify their acceptance all tamariki, and teachers sign the final document.

Community meetings are also a time for ākonga to share concerns, brainstorm ways to solve a problem and offer solutions in the hope that a consensus will emerge. This is invaluable as ākonga feel invested in the solution rather than a decree by the teacher.

Education for Peace is at the heart of Montessori philosophy. Montessori believed that it produced a new kind of person, conscious of his/her unity with all others, past and present, everywhere on the globe. One of the principle tools for building a sense of peace is the origin story exploring where we come from as a species. As ākonga learn their origins, they become more conscious and aware of the essential unity of humanity.

Grace and Courtesy lessons are also essential for developing social skills (how to interact appropriately in a community).

This heightened sense of human community helps contribute to the self-discipline we seek in our ākonga.

This is a long learning journey.



Robin has worked at Wā Ora since 1999. She believes Wā Ora reactivates the vision of education as an “aid to life”. Robin holds a Bachelor of Education, a Diploma of Teaching and Montessori 3-6 training from the London Montessori Centre and various Montessori 6-12 trainings. Aside from being passionate about Montessori she enjoys usic, art, reading, learning and gardening.

Sport

Touch rugby

Pūkeko (Y1/2) vs Koraunui Yellow
 Ruru (Y1/2) vs Rata Street 1
 Kererū (Y3/4) vs Rata Street 2, 11 - 7
 Weka (Y3/4) vs Belmont Dragons, 7 - 5
 Kōkako (Y5/6) vs Belmont Pumas, 7 - 5
 Takahē (Y7/8) vs Kickback Gunners (Y7/8G NL), 1 - 12

Sports coordinator 2021

Our sports coordinator for the area school is Sarah Jane Lambie. Her office hours are 8.30 am–3.30 pm Tuesdays and Thursdays at the high school and she is contactable on 04 567 2377 on these days or by email sarahjane@waora.school.nz.

Swimming

Swimming for the primary classes will be held over the first 2 weeks of March at Stokes valley pool. Tania has emailed more detailed information. Please remember to name all togs, towels and goggles. Dates:
 Week 5 - Monday 1st, Tuesday 2nd, Thursday 3rd, Friday 4th March (not Wednesday)
 Week 6 – Monday 8th – Thursday 11th March

Choir is back!

Wā Ora's High School choir will be on Tuesday lunchtimes in the Music Room. We really want to represent the school at the Big Sing festival in June, so we're looking for more singers. Michael is keen to hear what music you might want to do, so if you think 'choral' music isn't your thing, don't worry!

Music lessons! (Y7 & above)

As well as choir and the primary music classes, Michael teaches singing in the High School, and can also teach Clarinet and Saxophone. These lessons happen during school time or just after school and are government funded! If you're High interested in child having lessons, just send him an email

- michaels@waora.school.nz

Have your contact details changed?

If any of your details have changed over the summer break, please notify the office (this includes address, phone numbers, email, Dr. etc.) either by email or via the app. Alternatively call into the office to complete a 'Change of Details' form. Having the correct information impacts our ability to contact you in an emergency.

Parent Education Evening

Thursday 11th March



Come along to the first of this year's series of Parent Education evenings to be held on **Thursday 11th March at 7pm** in Tōtara class and learn how we incorporate

'Maths' into our Montessori curriculum at all levels of our school.

Please RSVP to the office by Monday 8th March. We look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible. 😊

School photos

SAY CHEESE!



School photos are scheduled for Wednesday 3rd March. The online process will be the same as last year for ordering class and individual photos. If you wish to order a

sibling photo, you will still need to pick up an order form from the school office and complete and return it by Tuesday 2nd March. Oder information went home last week. The schedule is as follows:

8.00am	Staff
8.30am	Tāwari
9.00am	Kawakawa
9.30am	Rewarewa
9.45am	Nikau
10.00am	Pōhutukawa
10.15am	Kōwhai
10.30am	Pūriri
10.45am	Rātā
11.00am	Kauri
11.15am	Tawhai
11.30am	Tōtara
Throughout the morning	Sibling photos

Relda – Goodbye, Good luck and Thank you 😊

Farewell and best wishes to Relda Hermann, who is off to study something new at Weltech. Relda has been a huge part of the Wā Ora community both as a staff member and parent and will be greatly missed by us all.

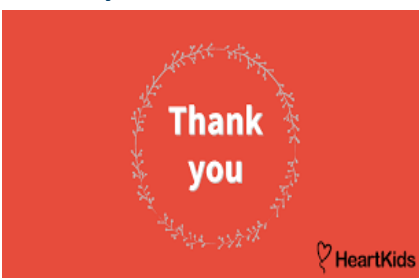


Term 1 parent morning tea



Our preschool and primary parent termly morning tea is happening this Wednesday 24th February at 9am, after drop off at Trade School Kitchen, 17 Everest Avenue, Naenae. These morning teas are very relaxed affairs and offer a great chance for new preschool parents to meet up with existing families. Toddlers and babies are welcome. So join us for a relaxed chat and a cuppa and stay for as long or as short as you can manage 😊.

Thank you from Aubane



What a fabulous audience I had on Friday!!! Your donations exceeded my goal and you help gather a whopping \$225!!! [This page](#) still welcomes donations! Thank you to the Wā Ora community for being so generous and making a difference to all of the Heart Kids! See you next year!

PTA Twilight School Picnic –THIS FRIDAY–



Wā Ora PTA invites you to the annual Twilight Picnic this 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!

