

Diary dates

Coming up . . .

- Monday 12th April **Year 7's to Technology**
- Monday 12th – Thursday 15th April **Preschool, Primary & Tawari Parent/Teacher interviews**
- Thursday 15th April **Playgroup open morning**
- Thursday 15th April **Kawakawa Coffeehouse 7pm**
- Friday 16th April **Year 7's to Technology**
- Friday 16th April **LAST DAY OF TERM 1**
- Monday 3rd May **FIRST DAY OF TERM 2**

Teacher only day Term 2

Tuesday 11th May

Tuesday 11th May – Week 2 Term 2 is a teacher only day for the area school. School will be CLOSED for primary & High school ākonga. Preschool classes will be open as normal.

Kawakawa café for Coffeehouse



Thursday, 15th April, 5:30 - 7:00 PM

in the prefab

Come on down to Kawakawa Pop-Up Cafe and enjoy a pre-show meal with friends and family!

Menu

homemade pies & salad \$10:00

choose from steak, chicken and vegetarian options

tomato & roast capsicum soup with garlic bread \$7:50

vegan

ginger crunch or malteser slice \$2.50

and to finish... coffee, tea or hot chocolate

**- made to order by one of our trained baristas
profit going towards kitchen equipment for Kawakawa
your support is appreciated**

This week

The Importance of Concentration

By Michael Draper — Physics Teacher

An important concept in Montessori philosophy is the role of concentration in the development of the child:

“The first essential for the child's development is concentration. It lays the whole basis for his character and social behaviour. He must find out how to concentrate, and for this he needs things to concentrate upon. This shows the importance of his surroundings, for no one acting on the child from outside can cause him to concentrate. Only he can organize his psychic life.” (Maria Montessori, *The Absorbent Mind*, 1949 translated 2007, p.202).

“Without concentration it is the objects about him which possess the child. He feels the call of each, and goes from one to another. But once his attention has been focused, he becomes his own master and can exert control over his world.” (ibid p.197-198).

She goes further to say that the process of concentration is restorative to a child's overall wellbeing (“As soon as the ability of fixing the mind on real things is acquired, the mind will return to its state of health, and begin again to function normally.” ibid p.243). I have seen this ‘miracle’ in action both with my students and with my own children – when they become engrossed in work, any listlessness or contrariness falls away and their vitality and joy is apparent.

Maria Montessori observed that ‘occupation’ in tasks was not sufficient and that true ‘concentration’ was required for healthy development (“because if the children go indifferently from one thing to another, even if they use them all properly, this is not enough to remove their defects.” ibid p.188). She also identified the consequences of interrupting the pattern of concentrated engagement for a child (“If his cycle of activity be interrupted, the results are a deviation of personality, aimlessness and loss of interest.” ibid p.146), and gives explicit instructions to teachers “not to interrupt the child” when they are concentrating on their work (ibid p. 248-9 and 182 respectively).

The purpose of a Montessori school, therefore, is not to keep children busy, but to provide an environment where ākonga engage in interesting work. Once engaged, it is our job as teachers to enable ākonga to pursue their work free from interruption. (As a Montessori teacher, one of my challenges is to hold off from automatically assisting my students and instead wait for when my involvement will support their concentration rather than interrupt it.) This need for concentration also explains why we limit the number of transitions in the school day to give ākonga more time to focus on their own work.

Maria Montessori's specific advice to parents? “Their children need to work at an interesting occupation: they should not be helped unnecessarily, nor interrupted, once they have begun to do something intelligent.” (ibid p.182).

Maria Montessori wrote these observations in the 1940s, when electronics technology was in its infancy. If she were working now, I wonder what her advice would be regarding children and concentration in our Information Age?



Michael trained as an engineer but worked firstly in IT and management consulting before turning his energy to teaching. Michael loves how Montessori engages ākonga in projects that combine learning across multiple fields and helps ākonga grow and develop as contributing members of their communities. Michael describes himself as a geek, loves learning across almost any field and is a recent and enthusiastic electric car owner!

Sport

Please see our new separate sports newsletter.

Parent/Teacher/Student

Interview links

Parent teacher interviews for preschool, primary and Tāwari will be held this week. Emails have been sent with full information. If you haven't already booked, please use the link below with the applicable event code:

<https://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz/code?code>

Preschool	exby8
Rata	6r55b
Puriri/Kauri	48dbq
9-12	74gsv
Tawari	w64en

If you require After School Care during these interviews, please remember to book with the office to allow us time to plan our staffing accordingly.

Volunteers needed

If you can read and write clearly and have a few hours to spare later in the year - then you're already qualified!

Some of our High School students need a few volunteers to support them with reading and/or writing in their mock and end of year exams. The externals are held at Taita College and this position is paid per exam.

If you would like to know more please email Juliette@waora.school.nz and we can have a chat about what's involved.

Our students, teachers and families are very appreciative of your help.

Our students, teachers and families are very appreciative of your help.

Lost Property



There is a small amount of lost property on the rack in the hallway at the Rātā class end of the deck. Please check before Friday. Anything remaining will be cleared out over the holidays.

Primary Production 2021

Motu Manu Tapu



This weekend, Saturday 17 &

Sunday 18 April, we are running workshops for sets, props and costume making at the high school. The workshops will begin at **10pm to 3pm** each day. All whanau are welcome to help out.

- Sewers (fairly basic)
- Cutting out (bring scissors if possible)
- Making alterations
- Designing

Any offers of the following materials can be dropped off at the school office:

- Feathers!! Required for years 6-9 Bird Masks.
- Chicken wire for set construction
- Boots (If your child is a Hob Nob they will need a pair of boots- preferably a low heel; Opp shop)
- Old leather belts
- Top hats

Any questions, please email Annette-
annette@waora.school.nz

Playgroup open morning



We are holding our postponed open morning this Thursday 15th April for new people to try out our playgroup. If you know of anyone with a toddler aged 18 months to 3 years, please share this information with them ☺. There's no need to register and we'd love to see them along at 9.30 am

Happy holidays!



Have a well-deserved break everyone and we will look forward to seeing you all back for term 2 on Monday 3rd May.

April school holidays & the ANZACS

Free activities on Jackson Street

As you know, this year Anzac Day falls in the middle of the school holidays, so the Jackson Street Programme (JSP) is combining the two events – have fun discovering our Street while learning about our history!

For two weeks between **17 April - 2 May**, there will be:

- ✓ scavenger hunt where you need to find 6 of the Allies flags in various shops - everyone goes into a draw to win a prize
- ✓ hopscotch outlines along the Street with different Anzac themes
- ✓ colour-in a wreath competition – to be judged by the Lower Hutt RSA
- ✓ make-a-wreath instruction sheet
- ✓ an Anzac word-find

...and more, all for **FREE!**

Keep an eye on both the JSP's website and Facebook page for more details (*prizes will be determined by the age of the winners*).

Elements Nature Based Play



Are you looking to give your children a different experience next school holiday's?

Have your children active & imaginative

amongst nature. Think huts, trees, creeks, tools, arts n crafts, time and space.

Elements has a great mix of planned experiences and play throughout our programmes. For the April School holidays Elements are offering 'Creative Work/shop' Mon 19, Tues 20, Wed 21st at Belmont regional park & 'Going Wild' Tues 27 & Wed 28 28 April in Pinehaven.

See our website:

<https://www.elementsnature.co.nz/>

or facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/elementsprogrammes/> to see what we get up

to. Bookings are through

<https://elements.aimyplus.com>.

Upper Hutt Shuttle Bus

This service has been a success!

We have been operating Wed-Fri and the kids really enjoy it and I know the parents are finding the extra time and freedom very helpful! Currently a ONE WAY trip per family is \$15. The more we get happening the less it will cost. If anyone is keen to jump onboard we have a few seats left on the current service and are considering starting a Tuesday trip also.

To register your interest, please email Kate angelnursekate@gmail.com