

## Diary dates

### Coming up . . .

- Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> October **Board/Council Meeting 7pm** Tāwari class
- Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October **Kawakawa Service Camp**
- Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> October **1<sup>st</sup> instalment school accounts due**
- Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October **Whānau Hui**
- Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> November **Working Bee**
- Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> November **PTA Te Whiti Riser Walk**

### Welcome to the following students and their families...

**Pōhutukawa** – Bishmeet Gill

**Nīkau** – Chloe Chang and Ezekiel Kauri

### Congratulations to . . .

. . . Jiayi and Sheng gang and big sister Chloe in Rewarewa who have welcomed their new baby girl recently.

. . . Jean and Ed and big sister Evie in Kōwhai who have welcomed their new baby boy Oscar.

### Shakeout earthquake drill



Wā Ora is again a part of New Zealand ShakeOut, the national earthquake drill and tsunami hīkoi, taking place this Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> October at 9.30 am.

## This week

### Education – here, there and everywhere

By Amy Johnson — Kōwhai Head Teacher – Preschool

Dr. Maria Montessori was a genius. There I said it. And I feel like I can justifiably make such a claim. After 20 years studying and considering her words and ideas, plus 20 more years experiencing her legacy through my schooling and upbringing, I am still challenged and inspired by her quotes. One such quote found me recently and I figure this newsletter is a perfect place for me to share my thoughts with you all.

*“And so we discovered that education is not something which the teacher does, but that it is a natural process which develops spontaneously in the human being. It is not acquired by listening to words, but in virtue of experiences in which the child acts on his environment. The teacher’s task is not to talk, but to prepare and arrange a series of motives for cultural activity in a special environment made for the child.”*

The Absorbent Mind. Amsterdam: Montessori-Pierson Publishing Company, 2007. p 7

Ok. Now read it again. Education is a natural process. A spontaneous process. One that happens in humans... every human. Ever! Wait, if education isn't just happening with a teacher in school then does that mean it is happening everywhere? Well, actually... yes. Is your child being educated holding the neighbour's kitten? Yes. In the car on the way to school? Yes. In the grocery store or all the other places that we consider mundane and ordinary? Yes! That is how your child becomes, to use Dr. Montessori's term, “a citizen of his time and place.” It is how our tamariki learn their culture, their language, their art, their humour and in the first 6 years it is how they create their personality. She says that education is not what happens when someone talks to you about their skill or knowledge or even their understanding or passion, but rather through the child's own experiences, their actions and their effect on their environment. With our youngest tamariki, this is most often their experiences with the physical and emotional environment. For older tamariki it is their social environment that expands into their cultural, societal and even global environments with which they engage. But of course Dr. Montessori doesn't let the teacher off the hook here - she leaves us as creators, caretakers and guides for 'motives of cultural activity' in the special environment of the children's community, designed exactly to suit both the individual and the collective phase of development. No small task, let me tell you. But one that I know myself and my colleagues are still inspired by every day.



Amy joined Wā Ora in 2015 after previously working in Montessori centres in Australia. She holds a Bachelor of Arts (Linguistics), an AMI 3–6 Diploma and a Masters of Education. She loves connecting children with the tools in their environment to discover for themselves their own passion for learning and feels privileged to see them reveal their personality through their interests and actions. In her free time, she enjoys camping and hiking and visiting the beach, skate park and bike tracks with her family.

**Wā Ora whānau survey**

Thank you to all whānau who have already gone online to complete this year's whānau survey. This is an important part of how the school collects feedback and helps us to review our practices and refine these where necessary. Every member of the Wā Ora community has an important and valuable opinion so if you have not yet completed a survey, there is still time. This link (<https://forms.gle/f1VrTiAKLReeTLYeA>) will take you directly to it. The survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete.

**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 November**  
9am – 12noon

Charlie Goldberg	Harrison Jarvis
Hemi Thompson	Asthon Tietjens
Liam Townsley	Sailor Trapp
Ishan Vallabh	Theo van Beynen
Rachel Visser	Asher Wanden
Arthur Watt	Musa Waqas
Wila Weaver	Ailie Weir
Stella Meadows-Miller	Jachin –Arepá Webster
Julian Wimbush	Aaria Wright
Ujin Wythe	Sophie Young
Marcus Zhou	Oscar Zuiderwijk

**Younger siblings on waiting list**

A message for whānau of our current ākonga (students): If you have a child under three years old, who you would like to attend Wā Ora when they turn three years old, have you pre-enrolled them with us? If you have not completed a pre-enrolment form for them yet, please contact Emma (Enrolments Administrator) for a form.

**Abacus - Late calendar orders**

If you missed out on placing an order for calendars, sketch pads, diaries, mouse mats and card packs with children's artwork/photo, Donna will be placing a late order this Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October. Please email [donna@waora.school.nz](mailto:donna@waora.school.nz) a copy of the completed order form if you'd like to place an order.

**PTA**

**PIES FOR SALE!**

Our pie sale is BACK ON!! The PTA is selling delicious pies, large enough for family dinner, with savory and sweet options available - \$11 per pie.

Please place your order via this form and make your payment by online banking: [order here](#)

Orders and payments are now due by **Thursday 28 October**. Pies must be collected from school on Thursday 11 November. We will assess the likely alert level as we approach collection day, and will let you know if there is a change to this plan.

Thank you for your support, and thanks so much to those of you who have already ordered and paid!



**TeWhiti Riser Twilight Walk**

**Sunday 7th November**

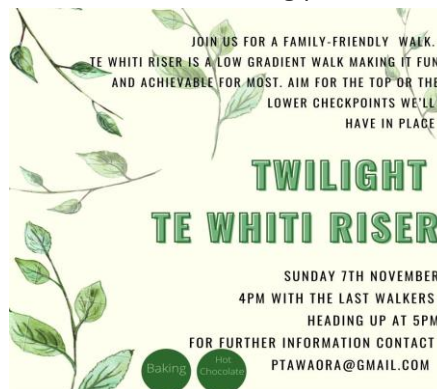
Come along to the PTA Te Whiti Riser Twilight Walk!

It is a great chance to get out into nature on this low gradient pram accessible walk with friends and family.

This year there will be baking available for purchase -all funds raised going towards a sign written gazebo for Wa Ora to utilise at future events, as well as a complementary hot chocolate for walkers upon their return.

Please follow the link below to register: [Register here](#)

We look forward to seeing you there!!



These fundraising efforts is to help us buy a gazebo emblazoned with our school logo to provide weather protection and foster school pride for our children when they are attending events.

**Parent Education Series – webinar**

**Tuesday 2nd November**

We're happy to share a parent education opportunity for you that is coming up soon. Richard Goodyear who used to be the Lead Teacher in Kawakawa is now an educational consultant and he is presenting a series of webinars, the first of which is coming up next month.



**New Zealand Sign language**



Register: <https://www.mergenz.co.nz/events/nzsl-crash-course-wellington>

**Scholastics Books**



Brochures went home last week and orders are due online by Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November.