



Te Aro School

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Te Aro School Newsletter – 12 February 2024

News from the Principal's Desk

Tena tatou katoa e te whanau. Dobar dahn, Nabad, Hola, Ciao, Ni hao, Namaste, Talofa, Bonjour, Konnichiwa, Kia orana, Bula, Buon giorno, Guten Tag, Cześć, Salamu Aleykum, Hola, Ciao, Haye, Hallo, Merhaba, Akkam, Asalaam-walaikum , Selamat datang, Walang anuman

Hari tau hou
Xin nian kuai le
Happy New Year

It has been wonderful to welcome everyone back to school. I hope your child/ren are settling into their new classes and their new routines.

My thanks to Graham, Sonia, and Eugene for working so hard to get the school grounds ready for the start of the school year.

Thanks too to the teaching team who worked hard during January to set their classrooms up ready your children arriving on Wednesday 31 January.

Nua mai haere mai. A warm welcome

We have welcomed Ella, Esther, Eva, Serah, Levy and Suzy to our teaching team. Both Suzy and Levy have previously taught at Te Aro. It has been great to reconnect with them again and have them back on our staff team.

We have also welcomed Kirsty Gardner to our staff team. Kirsty is the central Wellington and Northern suburbs new resource teacher of literacy (RtLit). Kirsty is going to be based at our school and working out of the Reading Recovery Centre. We're excited to have filled this position as it has been vacant for two and a half years and was formally based at Thorndon School.

A very warm welcome to our new students and their families who have joined the Te Aro School whanau over the first two weeks of school. We welcome Sarah and Lapa-Nong who have joined Ray and Esther's class; Eli and Junyi who have joined Mathew and Tessa in Rūma Manuka; Truong who has joined Jonny and Suzy's class; Sosha, Kainat, Constance, Aous, Songsong and Hai Au who have joined Serah and Eva in Rūma Tawa.

The teaching team this year is:

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|------------------------------|--|
| Rūma Tawa - Year 1 | Serah Mehrtens Eva Stoddart Jonny is releasing Eva on a Friday. |
| Rūma Tarata - Year 2 | Jonny Ayres (Monday and Tuesday) Suzy Jones (Wednesday - Friday) |
| Rūma Kauri - Years 2 & 3 | Ella de Blois Levy Roberts is releasing Ella on a Friday. |
| Rūma Nikau - Years 3 & 4 | Anna Morgan Jonny is releasing Anna on a Thursday. |
| Rūma Manuka - Years 5 & 6 | Mathew Quivooy Tessa Devereux |
| Rūma Pohutukawa | Ray Teahen Esther Tamiti Meena Vallabh is releasing Esther on a Friday and Ray on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. |

Cathie our ESOL teacher works Monday – Thursday each week.

Bernice will be working this year on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

Tessa will be the lead/contact teacher for the Year 5s.

Mathew will be the lead/contact teacher for the Year 6s.

Esther will be the lead/contact teacher for the Year 7s.

Ray will be the lead/contact teacher for the Year 8s.

Hemi Price will continue to be our kapa haka tutor on Thursday afternoons.

Meet and Greet

We are looking forward to seeing you on Wednesday evening at our annual Meet and Greet evening. Food will be available to buy and enjoy up on the top playground from 5.00pm. At 6.00pm I will introduce the staff team to you all and then teachers will head to their classes. Your child's teacher will introduce themselves and their class programmes and routines at approx. 6.15pm and then they will repeat their talk again at 6.35p.m.

Property Update

Over the holidays asphalt repairs were made up on the top part of the drive, up on the top playground and on the section of the pathway leading around onto the top playground. It is great to be able to move about safely without stumbling on tree roots and broken asphalt surfaces.

Our major window project began last December after school ended. All the windows in the main block are to be replaced by new double-glazed windows. We are really looking forward to enjoying the benefits of double-glazing and to be able to easily ventilate our rooms. This property work will take place over the first two terms of this year. The builders hope the first stage of the project will be completed by our April holidays. This will see new windows in Matai, Cathie's room and the library.

Garden to Table

Mathew and Tessa's Year 5s were very excited yesterday to begin their Garden to Table learning.

I worked with Mathew in eco Warriors. I liked how Mathew allowed me to do my own writing and researching on my chromebook. I started researching about Snowshoe Hares. They are similar to rabbits but they have longer ears and their feet are bigger than a rabbit's foot. In the winter their fur changes colour. - Junyi

In Garden to Table I did gardening with Russell. We located potatoes in the garden. We found a lot of purple potatoes. Miranda says she is going to possibly make potato salad or fry the potatoes with her cooking students. I was hoping that I might have got to do cooking or bee keeping this week. - Skye



I was a little disappointed at first that I didn't get to do bee keeping. I was instead in Tess' local action group. We talked about and then researched an environmental problem and looked at possible solutions to this problem. We discussed evasive species – both plants and animals. - Archie

My first Garden to Table session was bee keeping with Martin. Martin told us all about smoking the bees to calm them before we put our bee suits on so we could visit the hives. I learnt that bees grow through four stages – egg, larvae, baby bee then adult bee. I also learnt that all the worker bees are female. I learnt that male bees don't sting. This week we worked in the smallest hive. Next week we will work on the largest hive which is taller than me and almost as tall as Martin. - Ella

House of Science Kits

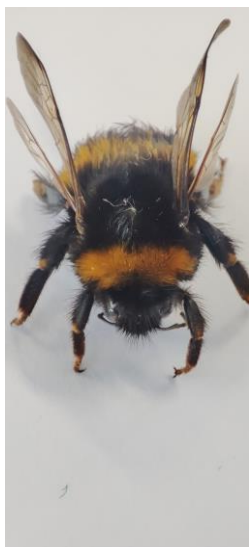


Thanks to our Spellathon last year we have a House of Science membership. We will receive two kits a fortnight for us to explore and use across the school. This week students in the junior school got to explore measurement.

In Rūma Manuka we got to work with the bumble bee kit. I got to inspect different types of bumble bees. We got to look at a male bee, a queen bee, and a worker bee. - Elijah



I was excited to look closely at the different bees. The male bumble bee is so much smaller than the queen bee. I am excited about using the bee kit to learn more about bumble bees. – Tadra



Tessa gave us the capsules which each had a bee in. We tipped the bees onto a Petrie dish. Using tweezers, we got to turn the bees over and inspect them using a magnifying glass. Bees actually have three eyes! I was amazed at how much bigger the queen bee was in comparison to the worker bee and the male bees. – Jay

The bumble bee science kit was cool! I think I would be terrified to see a live queen bee as she is so much larger than other bees. I am wondering why and how the queen bee is so much larger than the other bees. - Eli

Technicraft

Our Year 7 & 8 students began their technicraft sessions for the year on Thursday morning. There was a great deal of excitement amongst our Year 7s as they headed off to Mt Cook School's technology centre for their first session.

My first technicraft session was cooking. Scott, our teacher, made pikelets for us. They were good. Next week we are going to make pikelets ourselves. Technicraft is quite cool. It's fun learning new things – things that might be useful as we get older. – Alfie

Technicraft was great. I'm learning to sew. We got to choose a sewing machine to use. I'm working on Bumble. We had to practice using the machine. We sewed on paper. - Veer

Professional learning and development

The staff team began the year with a day of professional development facilitated by Louise Demsey. Louise's day was focussed on the teaching of writing including poetry writing. Louise's workshop was extremely practical. She shared with the teaching team excellent resources that we will be able to use throughout the year.

Summer Reading

Thank you to all the students and whanau who have returned their summer reading books. Cathie is keen to get back into circulation any summer reading books that have yet to be returned. Please drop your child's books off in the container in the foyer by the office.

I am looking forward to the year ahead. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or queries that you have about the school or feedback which you would like to share with me.

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou,
Sue

Important Dates

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| <p>February Wed 14 Feb – Meet & Greet, 5pm- 7pm Mon 19 Feb –Te Wharewaka trip - Pohutukawa Tues 20 Feb –Te Wharewaka trip – Manuka Wed 21 Feb –Te Wharewaka trip – Nikau/Kauri Thurs 22 Feb –Te Wharewaka trip -Tawa/Tarata Tues 27 Feb – Mt Kaukau trip – Pohutukawa/Manuka</p> | <p>March Mon 4 March – Te Papa trip – Manuka Tues 5 March – Adrenaline Forest trip - Pohutukawa Wed 6 March – Pukeahu trip – Nikau/Kauri Thurs 7 March – Pukeahu trip – Tawa/Tarata Sat 9 March – Aro Fair Mon 18 March – Life Education van arrives Tues 26 March – Zealandia trip – Nikau/Kauri Thurs 28 March – Zealandia trip – Tawa/Tarata Fri 29 March – Easter Friday (school closed)</p> | <p>Mon 1 April – Easter Monday (school closed) Tues 2 April – Easter Tuesday (school closed) Wed 3 April – Parent Teacher interviews Thurs 4 April – Rumaki Reo Wed 10 April – Parent Teacher interviews Friday 12 April – End of term</p> |
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Term Dates 2024

Term 1 2024

Wednesday 31 January – Friday 12 April

Waitangi Day – Tuesday 6 February

Good Friday – Friday 29 March

Easter Monday – Monday 1 April

Easter Tuesday – Tuesday 2 April

Term 2 2024

Monday 29 April – Friday 5 July

Teacher Only Day – Friday 31 May

King's Birthday – Monday 3 June

Matariki – Friday 28 June

Term 3 2024

Monday 22 July – Friday 27 September

Term 4 2024

Monday 14 October – Tuesday 17 December

Teacher Only Day – Friday 25 October

Labour Day – Monday 28 October