



Te Aro School

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Te Aro School Newsletter – 23 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

A warm welcome to Cummer, PJ, Tuli and Tomasa who have recently joined our school community. Tomasa has joined Serah and Eva in Rūma Tawa. PJ and Tuli have joined Mathew and Tessa in Rūma Manuka and Cummer has joined Ray, Esther and Meena in Rūma Pohutukawa.

We have also welcomed Sheila Mackie-Paul to our staff team. Sheila will be teaching in Rūma Tarata on a Thursday and a Friday. Sheila has joined us after Suzy Jones accepted an internship in the Ministry of Education to train as an educational psychologist. We wish Suzy all the best as she takes up this opportunity. We look forward to having Sheila in our junior team.

The past two weeks have been busy ones with students completing start-of-year assessments in reading, writing and maths and with new routines being established in each class. Last Wednesday we held an earthquake drill. After the all clear was made we gathered together out on the top playground. We were quickly able to account for everyone. I was especially proud of the students who were having a PE lesson outside with Jonny. They children made themselves into turtles out in the playground.

We really appreciated having the opportunity to meet with whānau last week at our Meet and Greet evening. In the senior school Ray and Esther talked with parents and caregivers about how they can support their child being safe online and when on social media. They reminded parents about how they needed to be aware of what their child was accessing online and what they were posting in group chats.

Over the course of this week classes have visited the Whare Waka on the waterfront to learn about our early Māori local history. Their guides have shared with them the purakau (stories) of Kupe's arrival, Ngake and Whaitaitai, and the story behind the waka in the Whare Waka which is linked to Parihaka and to the Taranaki region.





The trip down to the Whare Waka was interesting. Writing poetry on the waterfront helped us to tune into where we were – the sounds and what was around us. I learnt that every waka is different. Each waka represents a person and through the carvings they express that person. – Sarah



I discovered that the two eyes on the waka are for navigation purposes. The waka could hold 16 – 18 people. The carvings on the waka were explained to us. The bow of the waka was, in war, used to ram other waka. The canoe was decorated with albatross feathers. This was linked to Parihaka. – Veer



Use of phones at school

We have started the year asking students who bring cell phones to school, to hand their phone into their teacher or the school office first thing in the morning. Your child will not be able to use their phone between 8.55am and 3.00pm. If you need to change your child's after school arrangement please ring the school office and we will get a message to them.

Sports Update

This week our seniors played their first game of touch rugby at Wakefield Park on Wednesday afternoon. Our thanks to Andy for the early morning coaching sessions he has been running up on the Boyd Wilson field.



Our first game of touch was a little hard and a little difficult. We played against a team of all year 7 and 8s. We had five younger players in our team including me. Andy's advice for our next game is to spread out on the field and not bunch up. – Eli

Our first game was both a fun and nerve-racking game. I had knots in my stomach ahead of the game. I think our strategy was good. Andy said he wanted us to practise hard and to enjoy ourselves. He also told to keep feeling positive as we will do better next time. – Lauren



We're feeling pretty good about playing touch rugby this year. Our coach Andy has been teaching us lots of new skills. I know our first game or two will be hard as I am playing up a grade this year. I am going to do what Andy has told us to which is to keep running! - Georgie

This is my third season pf playing touch. I know we need to pass the ball around and especially passing to the girls in the team. When the girls score a try they get more points than when a boy scores a try. - Harper

Before the team's first game Ann shared with me: *Andy has told us not to run backwards and we have to keep running forward. I'm looking forward to passing the ball.*

Garden to Table

Our Year 5 and 6s are getting very excited about next week's honey harvest. Martin, our mentor beekeeper feels certain we will have a bumper harvest.

We have been designing labels for the honey jars. Tessa showed us a number of labels that students last year designed. I got inspired by one that had honey dripping down the lettering. I chose to use yellow and black which I think of as colours of the bee. We have to complete three practice labels before we create our final ones. Harvesting the honey is going to be amazing as we are going to harvest over Tess' body weight in honey! - Ella

House of Science Kits

Students in Rūma Pohutukawa had an exciting science session with Esther and Ray on Wednesday afternoon using two of the experiments from the Nano Chem kit.

I'm enjoying that we are getting new things to learn each time we do an experiment. – Ali

We created flubber by combining blue glue and borax. We used a popsicle stick to slowly blend the glue and borax solution. The flubber we made was jiggly. It felt nice and cold. It was both stretchy and squishy. I think you could even use the flubber as a stressball. – Alex and Lexi

The science kits make learning science fun. – Anh

We used two liquids to make a solid. We created flubber which is quite slimy to hold. I think we may have added too much borax to our glue because my flubber is a bit too liquidy. – Sione



Everything about the science kits is fun! I like how we had to measure an almost perfect tablespoon to make our crystals. We had to be so exact in our measurements. We are expecting to take five days for our crystals to grow. – Dezon

It was so much fun making crystals. The whole process of crystallisation is exciting. It's really good how each kit has all the scientific equipment we need for each experiment – petrie dishes, beakers and test tubes. – Selva



We did an experiment this afternoon to see how healthy our local stream Waimaphi is. Anna collected the water from the stream at lunchtime. We tested the temperature of the water. It was OK because the temperature was between 10 -20 degrees celcius. The water clarity was poor. It was quite dirty. We don't think it would be good for drinking as the water had sediment in it. We looked at all the information we had gathered and decided that the stream was in OK health. – Thea and Tova (Nīkau scientists).

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

February Tues 27 Feb – Mt Kaukau trip – Pohutukawa/Manuka	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 <i>(school closed)</i>	Mon 1 April – Easter Monday <i>(school closed)</i> Tues 2 April – Easter Tuesday <i>(school closed)</i> Wed 3 April – Parent Teacher interviews Thurs 4 April – Rumaki Reo Wed 10 April – Parent Teacher interviews Friday 12 April – End of term
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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