



Te Aro School

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Te Aro School Newsletter – 8 March 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 Argine and Hamish who have recently joined our school community. Hamish has joined Eva and Serah in Rūma Tawa. Argine has joined Esther, Ray and Meena in Rūma Pohutukawa.

We are so excited to see more of our new windows being placed in the main building. The extra light in the hallway and the teaching spaces is amazing. It will be wonderful to be back enjoying these spaces at the end of this term.

Yesterday we had an unplanned lockdown drill when we smelt strong gas smells. Students and staff initially gathered up on the top playground. Once we confirmed with the fire department that the gas was not from our school site, students and staff returned to their classrooms where they stayed inside until the wind dispersed the gas.

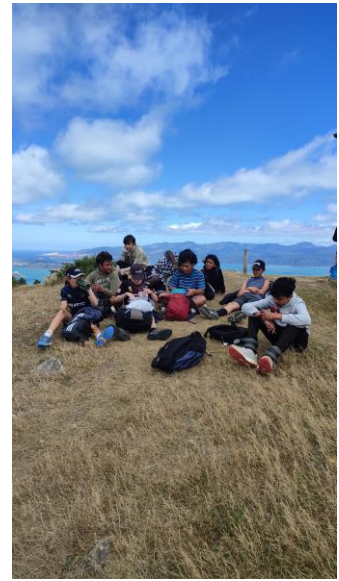
It has been a big week of unexpected drainage issues in and around the main building. Three pipes burst on three different days and then we had to manage a blocked sewage drain which was full of tangled tree roots. Thankfully we received immediate support from our plumbers and we were able to keep the main block open.

Mount Kaukau

The senior school (years 5-8) walked up Mount Kaukau last Tuesday, 27 February as part of their EOTC activities.



The trip was quite hard walking up the steep parts. Walking and talking with my friends helped me to get up the mountain faster. We got to rest and eat at the top of the mountain. The wind was really hard and strong at times. We had to hold onto our friends. I was happy finishing this walk. My legs were tired at the end. I slept well that night. – Willow



I really enjoyed walking up the hills. I chose to walk the 10km long walk. We walked for 4 hours. Reaching the very last hill I felt exhausted and I thought I might faint. The most difficult part of the day was swimming in the very cold pool at Khandallah. It was good from a fitness point of view. It was a training exercise. We all got to feel what it's like to climb up ginormous hills. – Minh



Adrenalin Forest

The year 7 and 8 students enjoyed their final education outside the classroom (EOTC) challenge going to Adrenalin Forest on Tuesday this week. Many thanks to all the whanau who supported our senior school fundraising at our Meet & Greet evening that helped raise money for this trip.

I enjoyed walking with my friends. A challenge was when my clips got stuck. Campbell helped me to lock correctly. I reached level 4 and I then ran out of time to attempt level 5. Level 4 is 10 metres above ground. It was exciting going on this trip. It was hard when I felt rushed. – Ethan

I made it to level 3A. I was climbing with Darcy, Khanh and Anh. We were together climbing. There were some challenges in climbing. We had to figure out overcoming the challenges together. The 25metre zip line was the last challenge to overcome. I had to take a deep breath and then go for it. – Ali



I liked the views I saw while up high. I could see a family of pukeko in the grassy area below me. The struggles I had were crossing the zipline. I found it hard to take clip off. I couldn't turn around easily to unhook. I needed to do everything faster. I felt stressed. I felt under pressure with Zack telling me he was ready to go. This all took place at the end of the course. I think trips like this are planned to challenge us and not feel overwhelmed by the pressure we're under. – Alfie

The thing I liked most about it was that I was climbing with my friends. If I was with anyone else I might have freaked out. They kept taking me to harder levels. After level 3A I had become less scared. I felt under pressure when Omar was about to go down the zipline and he might have crashed into me. My favourite level was 2B. It had the really long zipline. – Residence



Visiting Pukeahu

Our four junior classes this week walked down to Pukeahu, the National War Memorial Park.

I saw a big leaf sculpture. We could climb on it. It was my favourite sculpture. – Khansa

I saw a statue of a man with a donkey. I saw other statues too. I liked the maze sculpture best. It went round in circles. (This was the Belgium wreath). – Mervan

I liked the big shell sculpture because you can go inside it. I learnt that there is water running underground. It runs under the road. – Archer

I saw the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the giant shell. I learnt two Māori stories. I learnt that the anger of Tawhirimatia got sucked up into a Māori instrument. The instrument then sang a sort of song. I liked going on the memorial treasure hunt. - Ivor



We drew pictures with chalk on the ground. I drew a cake and I also drew a smiley face. Ricky talked to us about the big sculpture of a shell. He told us a Māori story. – Zoe

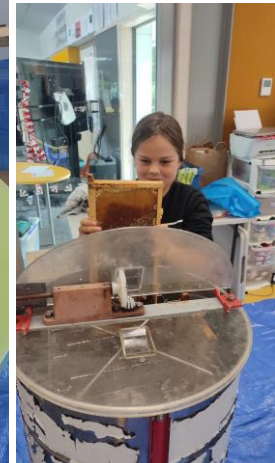


Honey Harvest

The honey harvest was great. Scraping the frames was so satisfying. The honey was delicious. The cappings were like chewing bubble gum. The honey harvest was better than I had imagined. The whole day was great. I am so pleased that I didn't get stung by a bee because there were 2 bees in the room. – Pia

I enjoyed spinning the extractor. You had to spin from slow to fast and then back to slow. I really liked scraping the caps of wax off the honey. I also liked standing on the extractor to weigh it down. – Rose G

My favourite part of the honey harvest was opening the valve to let out the honey. It flowed out into a sieve to filter out bees, bees' legs and extra cappings. We used jugs to fill our jars. This was satisfying. – Leo



I was glad I got to spin the extractor. I didn't get to do this last year. I'm disappointed I didn't get to fill the jars with our honey. The scraping of the comb was so satisfying. You had to be careful to not cut back the wax too far. We came across one bee in one of the frames. Martin said the bee was quite angry. Martin picked it up with his bare hand holding onto one of the bee's wings. He flicked the bee outside. – Alexandra Shima

Last year I didn't get to scrape and cut off the wax. This year I got to scrape the wax off the frames. This year we got to use a knife and scraper to get the wax off the frames cutting off layers of wax. There were different colours of honey. The light coloured honey was Pohutukawa and the dark honey was eucalyptus. I quite liked that we got to swipe our finger and get to taste some honey. – Rose B

The honey was really delicious. I spun the extractor handle quite fast. You had to turn the handle to get it to spin fast. You had to be strong to do this. Filling the jars was so satisfying. We filled quite a lot of jars. Watching the honey coming out of the extractor was great. - Haroon



The honey harvest was very sticky. The sticky honey was delicious. It was my first honey harvest I had done at school. I didn't get to work with my Grandma during the harvest. She was a helper. Stuffing my face with the honey cappings was delicious but also very waxy. – Eloise

I thought we were going to actually get the boxes from the hive but Martin had already done that on Wednesday. The best part of the honey harvest was helping to keep the extractor from moving as we spun out the honey from the frames. I also liked to cut the caps off the frames. – Isabella

Here is some background and history on beekeeping at our school.



Martin Toland, better known as “the bee man” or just “Martin” by children at Te Aro school, made his first beehive while working as a teacher in Botswana in the 1990’s. Arriving in Aotearoa in 2001 it didn’t take him long to build another hive at home, before building 4 more while teaching at Onslow College, establishing New Zealand’s first ever school beekeeping class.

In 2013, he brought a display hive of 4,000 live bees to Te Aro school to show the children. He spoke about these fascinating insects and their importance in maintaining a healthy environment, providing us with a pollination service that accounts for a large part of what we eat, and not just honey.

The students, who had the display hive in their class, were so excited to learn about bees that they made a presentation to the staff and Board seeking support to set our first beehive up at school so that children were able to have a go at beekeeping themselves and as a learning tool that could be made use of across the curriculum. The first set of child-sized bee-suits were donated by the Wellington Beekeepers Association who also provided extraction tools when it was time to do the annual honey harvest.

Over the years almost all of Te Aro’s children have worked as beekeepers at a weekly slot that Martin runs for the “Garden to Table” session. Care is taken when the students get “suited-up” to protect them from bees while investigating the hive, and only one student has been stung over the ten years the school has had hives. Martin gets stung occasionally, because he doesn’t wear gloves as he says using his bare hands gives him a better “feel” for the health and temperament of a swarm. “I’ve developed a degree of immunity over the years, and anyway, the bees recognise my smell” he says, but no one believes him.

The annual “Big Honey Day” was held this year on Thursday 29 February, and just about everybody in Ruma Manuka gets involved in the extraction and jarring of the honey harvest. Lots of sticky fingers and great fun for all. It’s a good fund-raiser for the school and a chance to get some super-healthy local produce. We don’t have Manuka in Wellington, but “poly-floral” honey from whatever’s flowering around the school (lots of Pohutakawa!). It’s also a good antidote for hay-fever sufferers, being locally produced.

Yum-yum.

Fun fact: world’s most famous beekeeper is a Kiwi: Edmund Hilary (him on the back of a \$5 note) was a beekeeper - as well as being the first person to Climb Mt. Everest.

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



COLOUR POEMS

Tawa students have been writing poetry about senses and our favourite colours.

Pink looks like a love heart.
Pink sounds like dancing in my party dress.
Pink smells like ice cream.
Pink tastes like juice.
Pink feels like a beautiful t-shirt.

- Kainat

Red looks like a spider.
Red sounds like pink.
Red smells like a potato.
Red tastes like watermelon.
Red feels hot.

- Te Huatahi

Blue looks like a water bottle.
Blue sounds like water.
Blue smells like a flower.
Blue tastes like a blueberry.
Blue feels like my awesome hat.

- Archer

Purple looks like an ice cream sundae.
Purple sounds like nails.
Purple smells like purple ice cream.
Purple tastes like berries.
Purple feels like sucking a lollipop.

- Tomasa

Orange looks like an orange leaf in autumn.
Orange sounds like a tree swaying in the wind.
Orange smells like juice.
Orange tastes like an orange.
Orange feels like the sun.

- Fyyfe



Are you a learner or speaker of te reo Māori? We would love for you to share your knowledge in our upcoming Rumaki Reo morning on Thursday 4 April!

It will involve playing a short game with a small group of students using as much te reo Māori as possible!

If you are interested, please get in touch with Tess for more information - tessad@tearo.school.nz

Important Dates

March

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*)

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

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