



Te Aro School

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## Te Aro School Newsletter – 12 April 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**

Eid Mubarak! Wishing all our Muslim families, who are celebrating Eid al-Fitr this week a very happy Eid. We hope you enjoy your celebrations with family and friends.

Just before Easter we hosted Timor-Leste's Minister of Education, Hon Dr Dulce Soares and her delegation. The Minister visited our junior classes and met with both Cathie and Tessa. She was keen to hear about the work Cathie undertook with our English language learners in particular her first language programme. Minister Soares was also keen to talk with Tessa about how she supports our staff team to develop their own te reo Māori skills and their classes' Māori programmes.

As part of preparing for Minister Soares' visit, I learnt that New Zealand has had a long-standing focus in Timor-Leste in supporting development of their education system. As part of our country's support of Timor-Leste we have supported the professional development of teachers, and the development of their early childhood curriculum. New Zealand continues to fund the only Tetum (indigenous) language educational resource, which provides curriculum guidelines to support teaching practice and student learning.

#### **Fire Drill**

On Monday morning we held a fire drill just before morning tea. When we undertake a fire drill we notify the Fire Services before undertaking the drill and then we actually call 111. It took us four minutes and 25 seconds to all assemble out on the top playground and account for all staff, students, and visitors. Following the drill we shared with the Fire Service how long our drill took to be completed and if we had any issues hearing the alarms or any issues evacuating the buildings.

#### **Term 2 and Cross Country**

Time for the holidays! Time to get stretching, moving, and training!

The Year 7 leadership group have been busy preparing for the School Cross Country event. They look forward to hosting the event on Friday 10th May (Week 2), with a postponement date of Monday 13th May. At the start of Term 2 we will be getting out on the turf in preparation for our school cross country event on Friday 10 May. Your child will need to wear trainers/sneakers for the first two weeks of the term as classes will be training on a daily basis. We shall share further details about this event at the beginning of Term 2.

#### **May is New Zealand Music Month**

*We will be celebrating in May New Zealand Music month. We are planning an assembly for the senior students on **Friday 24 May** at 1.00pm and some short performances for our junior students on other days. We implore you, as the Te Aro Assembly group, to consider performing for our school. If you want to perform, please get in touch with Sue on [principal@tearo.school.nz](mailto:principal@tearo.school.nz).*

- Best Regards the Pohutukawa Assembly Leadership Team of Anh, Norton, Ali, Dazelvn and Naomi

## Property Update

Our window project is progressing well. We are still amazed by the increased amount of light we have gained in the west end of the main block.

The building team are aiming to finish the work in the west section of the main block at the end of this week. The builders will then remove and replace the corridor windows heading down from the office towards Bernice's room.

During the holidays Georgie's back office windows will be replaced.

At the start of Term 2 Jonny and Sheila's class will be based in Rūma Ti. This space is usually where Cathie teaches (next door to the library).

Cathie will work out of the library during Term 2.

Bernice too has moved for Term 2. She is working in the small room opposite the room Jonny and Sheila will be teaching in.

Serah and Eva's class will be moving into Rūma Matai. This room is where we have previously had our school assemblies and where after school care has been based.

The building team are aiming for a completion date at the end of Term 2.

## Reporting to Parents

My thanks to all of you who collected your child early on the two Wednesday afternoons we were holding our interviews. It was great to be able to start our interviews before 3.00pm. My thanks to Serah, Eva, Levi, Pauline and Miranda who supervised those students who needed to be cared for until 3.00pm.

Thank you to all of you who made a booking to meet with your child's teacher(s). Over the two days teachers held 154 interviews. The teaching team shared with me that they have enjoyed the changed format of the interview nights being spread over two weeks. The new format meant that they felt fresh for each of the extended days. Teachers also shared with me how useful they felt the completed questionnaire feedback was. Your feedback helped focus the interviews. In Year 8 many parents were keen to talk about high school options for their child for next year.

## Visiting Zealandia

Our four junior classes visited Zealandia as their final education outside the classroom trip.

*I liked being able to use some binoculars when we visited Zealandia. Using the binoculars we could see birds from far away. I could see ducks and a kakapo. We saw kereru and a takahe. We saw some of Anna's favourite birds - saddlebacks. We also saw two tuatara. They were lying in the shade. One of the tuatara was hard to see as it was hiding behind a tree trunk. Going to Zealandia helped us learn about endangered bird species. We learnt about how we can keep them safe from rats and stoats. The fence around Zealandia really helps that to happen up at Zealandia. – Luca Devlin*



*It was fun visiting Zealandia. I like trips like going to Zealandia as I really like learning about birds. I liked being able to hear the bird calls on the different displays as well as hearing the birds out in the trees. – Owen*

*I liked how we got to find lots of interesting birds on our trip to Zealandia. We saw saddlebacks. They have red backs. We also saw kereru. We found them in the trees. I like trips to Zealandia as we get to do so much of our own exploring. Zealandia is important in Wellington as it keeps out predators and this looks after lots of native birds. Zealandia's special fence keeps out predators like cats, rats, weasels, and stoats. – Franca*



### **Term 1 highlights**

Students across the school shared these term highlights with me.

*I have liked listening to the three Wild Robot books that Anna has been reading to us. They have all been good books. The robot is a kind robot. – Manoa*

*I have really enjoyed Prodigy in my Maths learning this term. I like how we get to work on this work on our chromebook. I like how we get to work at improving our own maths. If I am doing well, I get to win the battle. In Garden to Table I have been an eco-warrior. We have looked at animals that are not good in the environment. I learnt about ferrets. They sometimes eat birds' eggs. – Willow*

*It's great to learn Chinese with Jing. I so want to be learning enough Chinese so I can speak to any new Chinese students who come to our school. I love how some long words in Chinese are just a single character in Chinese. I think I am quite good at picking up a new language. Chinese is so much fun! I encourage you to learn some sometime! - Jay*

*I think it is good that we teach Mandarin here at school. I feel very happy that my class are learning my home language as my home language is so special to me. I like being able to speak to Jing our Mandarin language assistant in Chinese. I do Chinese on-line classes two afternoons a week. I am trying to keep up my Chinese language so I don't fumble. Being bilingual is important for everyone in my family. - Junyi*

*This term I have really enjoyed reading. I have been learning to read lots of new words. I'm in a reading group with Franca, Jasmine, Glennisha and Kian. My favourite book that I have read was about budgies. Budgies like water and some budgies like to take baths. They like to eat fruit, vegetables and dandelion leaves. They also like eating seeds. – Libero*

*I have enjoyed learning how to play basketball in PE. I have learnt to dribble the ball. I liked our trips to Pukeahu and to Zealandia. I think the books we read in Anna's class are really interesting. – Faris*

*I have enjoyed everything about this term. I have really enjoyed our measurement work in Maths. I liked the earthquake kit more than the volcano kit. The volcano kit made me a little sad as I started to worry about how many people might die in a volcanic eruption. – Nina*

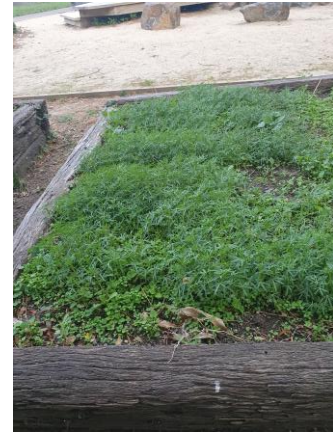
*I have quite liked our art focus this term. I struggled a little with getting the shape right of the person I was placing between Rangī and Papatuanuku. I have enjoyed garden to table. I have liked being in Tessa's Local Action group. I am working on a poster with Navya and Sylvia. We are sharing information about eel grass which grows at the bottom of some of our lakes. The grass can grow and take over the lake. We're also going to share some information about the brown bull head catfish. - Ruby*

*This term I have really enjoyed the tests for our Code work. I am working in Tessa's group. I think the Code work (a structured literacy programme) helps us with our spelling and our writing. It helps us with our formation of words. I have also liked the maths work we have done this term. I have improved my Maths since last year. Over the holidays I did some work which has really helped me to recall my times tables and basic facts. We have started to create artwork for the term 3 art exhibition. We have been creating a piece of artwork using only three colours – red, white, and black. – Faris*





*I liked working with Russell in the garden to plant the bean seeds all around the bottom of each stake. Russell tied the bamboo stakes together at the top. The stakes curved over to make a frame for a bean house. – Eloise*



*I enjoyed this term helping to make the bean frame using bamboo stakes. We used sacks in the garden to help stop the weeds from growing up amongst the bean seedlings. We used stone to weigh down the sacks. We're hoping that the beans we planted will grow up into a bean house. – Sylvia*

*I have liked learning Maths this term at school. I like doing worksheets. I think I am pretty good at Maths. I'm onto my second Maths book. I glue my Maths work into my books. I have also liked playing with my friend Elqui. We like to play together on our scooters. – Archer*

*I have liked coming to school this term. This is my first term of school. I like playing outside with my friends Sosha and Constance. I am good at writing, and I am good at doing Maths. - Songsong*

My personal highlights of the term have included:

- seeing the curiosity and excitement that the House of Science kits have generated in classes across the school
- how quickly our new teachers have settled into our school community
- the writing professional learning and development that the teaching team have done with Louise Dempsey and Murray Gadd
- the honey harvest in late February
- the increased number of students keen to participate in after school sports' teams
- the work I have been doing with other local principals Adrienne, Bernadette and Liz from Mt Cook School, Sacred Heart School and Clyde Quay School.

Thank you to all of you who have supported your child's learning this term by being a parent helper on our trips and excursions this term. We are very grateful to each of you who have given up your time to support our education outside the classroom activities.

Wishing you and your family a restful and relaxing break over the April holidays.

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



**School Photo Day – Tuesday 7 May 2024**

Our School Photo Day for 2024 is **Tuesday 7 May** (the second week of term 2). On Monday of Term 2, your child will be bringing home the below flyer about School Photos.

**Te Aro School on Tuesday 7th May, 2024**

We will photograph portraits of all students as well as class photos.  
**You do not order/pay for your child's portraits or class photos until AFTER PHOTODAY.**  
 You will receive an order form featuring a photo of your child after photoday. (Packs available below)

<p><b>Premier Pack \$45.00</b></p>	<p><b>Classic Pack \$40.00</b></p> <p><b>Packs include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Premier: 20x25, 2x 12.7x17, 2x 10x15, 2x 10x7.5, 3x Wallets, Calendar and Class</li> <li>•Classic: 2x 12.7x17, 2x 10x15, 2x 10x7.5, 3x Wallets and Class</li> <li>•Single: 1x 12.7x17 and Class</li> <li>•Portraits: 2x 12.7x17, 2x 10x15, 2x 10x7.5, 3x Wallets but no Class</li> <li>•Class: Class only</li> </ul> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Portraits include complimentary portrait file voucher. You will be able to redeem your file after you receive your photopack.</p>	<p><b>Single Pack \$35.00</b></p> <p><b>Portraits Only \$22.00</b></p> <p><b>Class Only \$18.00</b></p>
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Family/Sibling Photos: Order form is on reverse of advice note which your child will bring home. Order form **MUST** be returned to school office before photoday for photo to be taken.

The Year 7 leadership group bring to you...

# TE ARO SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY 2024

JOIN THE RUN

Year 7, 0, 1, 2, 3 10am  
Year 4, 5, 6, 8, & Fun Run 11am  
Friday 10th May  
Postponement Monday 13th May  
Boyd Wilson Turf

## Important Dates

### April/May

**Mon 29 April** – Start of term 2  
**Tues 7 May** – School Photo Day  
**Fri 10 May** – School Cross Country  
**Mon 13 May** – *School Cross Country*  
*(postponement day)*  
**Wed 15 May** – Board of Trustees Meeting  
**Fri 24 May** – NZ Month Music Assembly  
**Wed 29 May** – Rumaki Reo  
**Fri 31 May** – Teacher Only Day *(school closed)*

### June/July

**Mon 3 Jun** – King's Birthday *(school closed)*  
**Wed 5 Jun** – Yr 7 Immunisations  
**Fri 7 Jun** – Rongotai Experience – Yr 8 boys  
**Wed 12 Jun** – Board of Trustees Meeting  
**Fri 29 Jun** – Matariki *(school closed)*  
**Thurs 4 July** – Matariki School Celebration  
**Fri 5 July** – Last day of term

## Term Dates 2024

### **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