



Te Aro School

360 The Terrace, Wellington 6011

[office@tearo.school.nz](mailto:office@tearo.school.nz)

## Te Aro School Newsletter – 17 December 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, Hallo, Merhaba, Akkam, Asalaam-walaikum , Selamat datang, Walang anuman, Mabuhay, Xin chào

We ended our last full week of the 2024 school year celebrating our Year 8s at their leavers' assembly last Wednesday. This special event was an opportunity for the school (including parents and whanau) to acknowledge our leavers. We wish all our leavers the best as they move onto secondary school next year. I am certain that we will be celebrating their ongoing successes in future years.



Last week Cathie was excited to issue summer reading books to 104 students. Most of the students were issued with six books each plus a mystery book. Over 700 books in total were issued! Happy summer reading.

Many thanks to our Year 7 & 8s for organising yesterday's Big Day In. Students in their house groups rotated around a variety of fun team activities.

On behalf of the staff team, I would like to acknowledge and thank you for the parent and caregiver support we have had over this school year. Without your support we could not have ensured our students were safely able to cross the drive and The Terrace; that our students could participate in inter-school sports events; or that we were able to enter our sports' teams in after school competitions; taken our classes on trips; and enjoyed Matariki and our biennial art exhibition.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge Jo Brett. Jo is not leaving our staff team but with Esther leaving our school as she heads off to Wellington High Jo will no longer be an active member of Friends of Te Aro. It is true to say she transformed and spearheaded our fundraising efforts over the past ten years. She leaves a legacy, thankfully, of detailed run sheets and systems that will ensure others in our school whanau can continue to organise and lead in this space.

Finally, my thanks to Board members Kate, Gillian, Andy, John, Chris and Afnan for all their hard work over the past year. Nga mihi nui ki a koutou mo koutou awhina.

### **Thank you to the staff team**

I would like to, in this final newsletter of the year, acknowledge our teaching team of Anna, Ray, Cathie, Bernice, Kristin, Mathew, Tessa, Meena, Ella, Esther, Eva, Katie, and Levi who worked extremely hard throughout the year.

My thanks to the leadership team of Anna and Ray who have provided ongoing leadership across the school. Me te mihi nui mo a koutou manaakitanga.

My thanks to Cathie for the committed work she undertakes to meet the needs of our culturally and linguistically diverse learners and for running our library with support from Jo.

My thanks to Bernice, who as our school's learning support coordinator, works across the school to support teachers and support staff to meet the diverse needs of our students with additional learning, social, behavioural, health and physical needs. I wish Bernice all the best as she leaves us this week to begin her retirement. I am grateful to her for working with Katie this term as part of our transition plans for Katie becoming our learning support teacher in 2025.

I am incredibly grateful to both Bernice and Cathie for the work they undertook mentoring and coaching our team of support staff that has included Adam, Miranda, Bre, Geneva, Ella, Sumaia, Lola, Jack, TK and Meisam. My thanks to this fabulous team of teacher aides who have been so flexible, so adaptable, and so hard working. They truly made a real difference to so many of our students over the course of the year.

Thanks to Hemi, Mathew and Kristin for their support of kapa haka across the school.

Thanks to Mathew and Ray for their organisational skills that ensured our students could participate in local sporting events including extra- curricular ones such as touch rugby, floorball, basketball, netball, and futsal.

Thanks to Tessa for providing leadership in the teaching of te reo and tikanga Māori across the school.

Thanks to Ray, Anna and Serah for mentoring our beginning teachers Esther, Ella, and Eva. Congratulations to Esther, Ella and Eva on successfully completing their first year of teaching.

Thanks to Ray for being the staff representatives on the Board of Trustees.

Thanks to Tessa for being the teachers' NZEI representative and Ella for being the support staff's NZEI representative.

Thanks to Meena for working in Rūma Pohutukawa on a Thursday and Friday throughout the year so Ray had management release and Esther had beginning teacher release on a Friday. Many thanks to Meena for covering Ray's absence over the last week of this term while he was having his knee attended to.

Thanks to Meena, Levi, Nicola, Katie and Donna who have been our regular release teachers over the course of this year.

It has been a pleasure this year to welcome Kirsty Gardner to our school community. Kirsty was appointed as our cluster's itinerant Resource Teacher of Literacy (RTLit). Kirsty is based at our school and works across a cluster of inner-city Wellington schools and schools in the northern suburbs. It has been fantastic to see this position once again filled.

Many thanks to Russell, Martin, Monica and Claire who have this year supported our Garden to Table programme.

A great deal of thanks to Georgie and Jo who run such a well organised office and are both such welcoming faces of the school for all new families and visitors to the school.

Thanks to Graham our caretaker who ensures our school environment is cared for.

Finally, thanks to Satwinder and Dilpreet for the cleaning work they undertake across the school with Graham.

### **Farewells this week**

This week we farewell Russell, Bre, Geneva and Esther. Our thanks to Russell for his commitment to our Garden to Table team over the years. I am certain our paths will cross again Russell.

Bre and Geneva are taking up Ministry of Education internships as educational psychologists in 2025. We wish them all the very best. We know that they will make valuable contributions to the learning support teams they join.

We wish Esther all the best as she returns to Ōtepoti (Dunedin) to take up a new teaching position at Logan Park High School. Esther is looking forward to being closer to her whānau.

We wish the four of them all the very best for 2025.

To our students and families who are leaving our school community at the end of this year we wish you too all the best for 2025. At our leavers' assembly I acknowledged the following students and their whānau who will be leaving our school community this week as their children move onto secondary school: Alice, Argine, Darcy, Esther, Jay, Maddie, Marina, Melody, Micah, Naomi, Norton, Oscar, Rand, and Sione. We wish these students and their whānau all the very best.

### **Highlights of 2024**

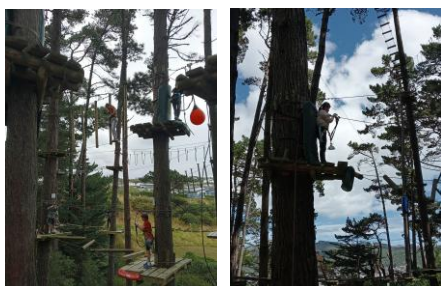
*Anna reading to us each day has been a real highlight over this past year. I really liked her reading Holes and The Wild Robot. She has read 9 novels to us. Next year I am looking forward to Garden to table when I am in Year 5. – Remy*

*Race Relations day was a real highlight for me. I liked trying all the different foods from different countries. I have also liked Maths this year. I got so much better at multiplication and division. I also got better at solving word problems in Maths. – Luca B*

*This year I have loved learning to play volleyball. I also loved celebrating Matariki, the art exhibition, and of course the year 8 banquet. I loved taking photos that night of my friends and the teacher. I loved eating Meena's butter chicken – it was so good as was Emma's Mac and Cheese.*  
– Dazelyn



*Our trip to Zealandia was a real highlight. It was lovely to watch the kids interact and respond to all the native birds. Our rŭmaki reo which had some of the school's past students and Tamatha Paul join us. I have loved the enthusiasm of the kids in my class to our rŭmaki reo morning. I also really enjoyed our race Relations Day. It was wonderful seeing our students share their culture in the food that they brought to school and wearing their cultural clothes. Meeting my first class and seeing them grow over the year academically and as young people.* – Ella (teacher/kaiako)



*Adrenalin Forest! I loved it because I am scared of heights, and it didn't stop me from enjoying myself and getting so much higher than I thought I would.* – Selva

*Our trip to Zealandia was a real highlight. It was lovely to watch the kids interact and respond to all the native birds. Our rŭmaki reo which had some of the school's past students and Tamatha Paul join us. I have loved the enthusiasm of the kids in my class to our rŭmaki reo morning. I also really enjoyed our race Relations Day. It was wonderful seeing our students share their culture in the food that they brought to school and wearing their cultural clothes. Meeting my first class and seeing them grow over the year academically and as young people.* – Ella (teacher/kaiako)

*I have really liked being at a new school this year in a new country. I liked swimming so much and technicraft. I got to do robotics, cooking, and sewing. I really liked when we got to go up onto the turf to play.* – Ryan

*Having Esther as my teacher has been a real highlight for me. She has been kind and patient and helped me settle into Te Aro School as a new student in a New Zealand school.* – Kathrina

*My highlights of this year have included cross country, Race Relations Day, and watching everyone in my class grow over the course of a year. I also liked attending the Year 8 banquet and seeing how they had grown from when I was a student teacher in their class last year.* – Eva (teacher/kaiako)



*I have made new friends since I started school. I really liked the games we played on Big Day In.* – Jeb

*I have really liked playing with my friends. Some of them are new friends. I have really got really got good at playing on the monkey bars. I have also liked when we do ako takora in other classes.* – Amelia

*I like playtime. I like playing the same game with my friends – villains.* – Will

*I have loved Maths. I have learnt about times tables. I have liked learning to do minus problems too. - Sofia*

*I have loved doing Maths and writing this year. I liked learning about money. In writing I have liked writing about things we have done at school and home as well as stories. - Elqui*

*I really liked the Mega Gala. I bought a fire truck for my wee brother Alec. I also liked Race Relations Day and Big Day In. – Ivor*

*I have really liked reading this year. I have liked reading trickier books each day. I have liked Maths too. I find it relaxing when I am writing my Maths answers. – Leon*

*I have lots of highlights – art, making skeletons as part of our art and science foci, going swimming and seeing my students overcoming their fears, our Parihaka unit, skipping as part of Wake Your Body, playing volleyball. I have so many highlights! - Esther (kaiako/teacher)*

### **2024 is just around the corner**

We are starting the new year with the following class compositions:

Serah will be teaching our Year 1 students in Rūma Tawa.

Ella will be once again teaching a Year 2 & 3 class in Rūma Kauri next door to Anna. Daphne will be working in this class every alternate Friday.

Eva will be teaching a Year 2 & 3 class in Rūma Ngaio next door to Kristin. Daphne will be working in Eva's class every alternate Friday.

Kristin will be teaching a Year 2 & 3 class in Rūma Tarata next door to Eva.

Anna will teach our year 3 & 4 class. Daphne will work in Anna's room one day a week releasing her to undertake her leadership work.

Tessa and Mathew will teach our Year 5 & 6 students in Rūma Manuka.

Ray and Meena will teach our Year 7 & 8 students in Rūma Pohutukawa. Levi will be working in Rūma Pohutukawa on Thursday providing leadership release for Ray.

Katie will provide learning support across the school on the three days she will be working each week.

Cathie will continue to support our English language learners across the school. She will once again be working Monday – Thursday.

### **Festive wishes**

Nga mihi o te Kirihimete me te tau Hou. Kua tae mai ra nga haraei. Wishing you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a happy New year. Happy holidays.

We look forward to seeing you back at school on Monday 3 February 2025.

Kake tonu Te Aro. Ever Upwards Te Aro.

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou,

Sue

## Board of Trustees' News



We're near the end of another wonderful, if occasionally challenging year at Te Aro School. 2024 has been long for many people in our community, and our amazing teachers are no exception.

The school's buildings, and especially its plumbing, have started to show their age. The Board is grateful for your support and understanding on the occasions when leaks meant the school could not operate.

Fantastic new windows were installed in the main block. But the project dragged on way beyond the originally indicated timeframe and the staff and students did an admirable job of adapting to reduced space for extended periods of time.

The government introduced a renewed, and national, focus on attendance alongside and an hour a day of reading, writing and maths.

The board was pleased that Sue and the staff were already carrying out regular reporting on student attendance as well as working with families where necessary. Schools have recently received additional attendance related rules and requirements for 2025. It is our opinion that Te Aro is already largely meeting the requirements and is well placed to respond to these without adding significant additional burden to our staff. Although, I was surprised to learn that daily attendance records are official documents and the board is required to keep them for 7 years.

And on that topic, please be aware that the school is required to communicate with parents about every absence and our staff will continue to do that.

Our teachers have adapted well to changes in the curriculum, but these changes always require additional effort from and training for our staff.

In Term 1 of next year, new approaches to teaching reading and writing are required in all schools, alongside an updated English curriculum for years 0 to 6 and an updated maths and stats curriculum for the entire school.

Sue and the staff have been reflecting on the new requirements and are ready to participate in professional learning and development opportunities particularly in the teaching of Maths. Teachers in 2025 will continue to implement structured approaches to teaching writing, building upon the work they have undertaken with literacy experts Dr Murray Gadd, Louise Dempsey and Jenni Dittmer. Nevertheless, there will still be significant learning and development requirements for our teachers next year as they implement the new curriculums.

Gillian McNaughton is finishing her time on the board at the end of the year. The board thanks her for her amazing contribution, in particular Gillian was a major force behind providing breakfast and lunch food for some of our students.

We wish you a happy Christmas and hope you all have a great break and we look forward to seeing you next year.

Chris Knox, on behalf of the Te Aro School Board of Trustees



## A Thank You Message from Bernice

Thank you to you, our wonderful Te Aro school whanau for giving me such a joyful send off from my teaching life. Teaching at Te Aro has been fabulous - so much so, that I have worked here twice, once last century and then again for the last 10 years. Thank you to all of you who have shared your children with me. Te Aro is a special community where we work hard to value each individual and encourage each child to reach their full potential. Thank you for the enormous generosity of many of you who contributed to my farewell gift - I love the tukutuku panel and will really enjoy choosing something else to add to this from the generous voucher I have also received.

Ngā Mihi  
Bernice



# **Term Dates 2025**

## **Term 1 2025**

Monday 3 February – Friday 11 April

*Waitangi Day – Wednesday 6 February*

## **Term 2 2025**

Monday 28 April – Friday 27 June

*King's Birthday – Monday 2 June*

*Matariki – Friday 20 June*

## **Term 3 2025**

Monday 14 July – Friday 19 September

## **Term 4 2025**

Monday 6 October – either Tues 16 Dec, Wed

17 Dec or Thurs 18 Dec (*end of term date TBC*)

*Labour Day – Monday 27 October*