



Te Aro School

360 The Terrace, Wellington 6011

office@tearo.school.nz

Te Aro School Newsletter – 14 June 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

In the past fortnight we have welcomed Sri to our school community. Sri has joined Anna in Rūma Nikau.

Teacher Only Day

On Friday 31 May we held a curriculum focussed teacher only day. At our Friday teacher only day we focussed on Aotearoa New Zealand Histories. Emma Beetle, co-founder of School Kit, prepared and facilitated our day together - *Finding answers to Ungooglable Questions on Aro Street*. School Kit is a New Zealand based education company that creates resource kits and learning experiences for teachers and their students.

Teachers shared the following feedback on our day together:

- *Emma was amazing to work with - so enthusiastic, so knowledgeable*
- *Wow Emma really had prepared so much for our workshop - we covered so much*
- *I loved the focus on important skills such as searching, comparing, contrasting, eliminating and refining*
- *I loved the idea of zooming in and zooming further in and then zooming out - zooming in so we got in close and then zooming out to understand contexts*
- *It was great to think about local history by narrowing our focus to Aro Street and our school and then the important historical events happening in New Zealand/Aotearoa and the world*
- *It was great to look at our own honours' board, that we see each day in our foyer, and then think about our past students*
- *Who would have thought that there was a dog at Te Aro School back in 1926! Molly's not the first school dog!*
- *Using our national archives throughout the morning was fantastic*
- *It was amazing to add our learning to an enlarged map of our local area - layering what we found out on the site/map of today - Rasterbator would be such a great tool for our students to work with*
- *The map of the area really brought the history of our area alive - it was so visual once we starting adding dots to the map - for example we could see how many World War soldiers were in Aro Street and local women in the early 1900s who were suffragists*
- *We discovered we had a long-standing link to the Chinese community as a school not just since we have a Mandarin language assistant and recent Chinese immigrants but historically*

- *Emma's questions could be used lots in our teaching:*

What do we know?

What can we guess?

What can we guess from the times?

What do we wish we knew?

What can we never know?

What do we hope for?

We are committed to have a history focus in Term 4.

Learning the sasa

As part of our Samoan Language week activities three of our senior boys Cummer, Angelos and Sione, taught the sasa to students in Years 7 & 8 and students in Ella's Year 2 & 3 class.

We taught our whole class and Rūma Kauri the sasa. We worked together to lead the sasa. It started off with just two of us teaching our class and then Angelos joined us. We practised outside. The boys were seated in the front. We walked between the students sitting in rows. We called out the moves for the students to do what we called out. We did three practises inside before we went outside where Ray filmed us. Angelos shared that he felt nervous initially. Sione told us he taught the sasa when he lived in Australia. Some of the kids told us that we did a great job. – Sione, Angelos and Cummer



Science learning

We continue to have delivered two House of Science kits each fortnight. Classes across the school are enjoying the opportunities of taking part in doing lots of exciting hands-on learning.



Electrical circuits have a negative side and a positive side to them. The positive side of the battery goes to the switch in our circuit. I like drawing our circuit and labelling it. – Zach



An electrical circuit connects the energy in the circuit. If we turn off the switch the electrical energy is broken. The electrical circuit can connect through bodies – through our hands. When we turned the switch on the light lit up. – Gracelyn

The electrical circuit we made turned on the light in our circuit. We drew our circuit and we labelled it. - Fenny

Moving onto high school

Our Year 8 students are currently visiting a number of local high schools with their families in preparation for their move to Year 9 in 2025.

Some of our old boys who are students at Wellington College returned today to talk to our Year 8 boys. It was great to reconnect with Nicky, Aslak and Christian.

We visited Rongotai last week. The staff at the school explained what we would see on our visit before we moved off in groups to look around the school. I liked their big gymnasium. I got to see maths and art classes. I think I will be going to Porirua College. That's where my older siblings go to now. – Cummer

It was cool visiting Rongotai. We got our names put into a draw and if our name was drawn out we won a prize. Hol Yin won a scarf. I went to a science class during our visit and we made elephant tooth paste. – Rand.

I really liked Rongotai's Open Day. The boys I met really loved their school. My Mum is leaning towards me going to Wellington High. She thinks it's a nerdy school. I still have got to visit Wellington College. – Anh

I want to go to Wellington High School as there are lots of design options that I'd like to do. I'd liked the architecture design options. I think Wellington College and Rongotai are more sports based. My Mum is leaning towards High. My dad hasn't said much about the schools. I think maybe he's going to let me make the decision. – Hol Yin

I'm focussing on sports and electives. I'd like to go to a school where they have decent netball teams and they have fashion as an elective. Wellington High School didn't seem like the school for me. I liked Wellington East Girls. The school vibe there felt good and the campus was beautiful. - Lexi

I am definitely going to St Catherines in Kilbirnie. It's a small school and everyone knows each other. I think I feel more confident being there and I'll be able to speak out. It's a Christian school. I know a lot of church and family friends go there. In Year 9 everything is compulsory. In Year 10 I will be able to choose some of my subjects. I'll catch the bus across town. I am excited about going. My sister Lydia has just moved to St Catherines and she likes it. - Naomi

I'm going to St Catherines too. The girls have their own lockers. I am going to bus with Naomi. I am looking forward to Science there. The lab looks cool. I know a lot of girls there – church friends and friends of friends. The school is a lot bigger than I expected but smaller compared to other high schools. I think the size of the school will mean I will be more confident as I will get to know all the girls. I am feeling a little nervous but not as nervous if I was going to a bigger high school. – Marina

Rūmaki Reo

On Wednesday we held a Rūmaki Reo morning. Kaiako (teachers) across the school each organised a kēmu (game) to play using as much te reo as possible. The tamariki played the games in mixed age groups. Our Rūmaki reo mornings allowed us to:

- tuatahi whakanuia te reo Māori. Celebrate te reo Māori
- tuarua - whakamāori te reo Māori. Normalize te reo Māori
- tuatoru - he Wero ki a tātou anō. Challenge ourselves
- kitea atu ki ngā tamariki te whakahirahiratanga o te reo Māori ki ō tātou orange, ki te Kura, ki te kainga, me te hāpori. To show the children the importance of the reo in our lives, our school, our homes and our community.
- Tuakana / Teina. The opportunity to enact our school value of Ako and provide the opportunity for students to work with students from different classes.
- Kia ngahau! Have fun!





On Wednesday we were joined by Tamatha Paul our local MP. Tamatha came with her colleague Lily. We were also lucky to have Mayor Tory Whanau and her work colleague Bailey. Finally, two former students Anika and Eru joined us. Huge thanks to Tessa who organised the morning's event and ensured the teaching team had learnt their kēmu and the important vocabulary so they could speak as much te reo Māori as possible. Our students across the school rose to the challenge and spoke lots of te reo.



News from the Garden

Last week we made salad of the imagination last week in Garden to Table with Miranda. We could put anything that was in season into the salad. This could have included adding edible flowers. We decided not to add flowers in case some people wouldn't eat the salad. In our salad we added cucumber, capsicum, carrot, beetroot, parsley zucchini, colourful cherry tomatoes and mixed salad greens including spinach. We also made a dressing with whole grain mustard, balsamic vinegar, salt, lemon juice and salt and pepper. Lara's hands got so red from grating the beetroot. Miranda described Skye as a pro at chopping and that Thao was a great grater! Cleaning up was insane as we had made quite a mess in the kitchen! Not everyone ate our salad. Some people ate multiple servings of it. Pia and Leo loved it! Izzy particularly loved the salad dressing. – Skye, Willow, Georgie, Elijah and Annie



Yesterday we undertook research with Miranda on Rēwena bread. We were learning about how we could make a starter 'bug'. When you start a 'bug' off you need to feed it with sugar and flour daily. Rēwena is a Māori recipe and it has fermented potatoes in it. We did some foraging in the gardens. We picked some kawa kawa leaves and made a tea from them. We added some slices of lime to our tea. The limes were off our own tree up on Demos Hill. After drinking our tea we sucked some of the lime slices. They were so sour!

- Archie, Lane and Navya



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

Board of Trustees' News



Kia ora koutou

Winter has definitely arrived and we are almost half way through the school year, which provides an opportunity for us to pause and reflect. The first half of this year has been a busy one for us at school and has been marked with challenges in property improvements, a rapidly growing school roll, and managing students and staff numbers through the usual seasonal illnesses.

Work is progressing to replace the windows in the main block, and we are continuing to battle issues with our 100 year old plumbing. Our school roll is steadily growing and since January 2024 we have welcomed 36 new students to our school, meaning we now have approximately 220 students on our roll.

One area of focus for our school board this year is attendance. Regular attendance is crucial for academic success and it also plays a fundamental role in fostering a sense of belonging and engagement with our school community. The Te Aro Board recognises the pivotal role that attendance plays in supporting student achievement and well-being. We remain committed to supporting our staff team who work with students and families to promote a culture of regular attendance and punctuality.

On Thursday 4th July we will celebrate Matariki. This is personally my favourite event in our school calendar, and I know many of you feel the same. The Māori New Year marks a period of reflection, renewal and celebration, and we honour the spirit of Matariki by coming together as a community. It is a wonderful evening packed with activities for our tamariki, shared hangi and baking, toasted marshmallows, and (weather permitting) some star-gazing. All this is organised and supported by staff and our Friends of Te Aro fundraising group - if you would like to help by joining this wonderful group of volunteers, please be in touch on friendsoftearo@gmail.com.

I look forward to seeing you all there.

Kate Brazier, on behalf of the Te Aro School Board of Trustees



School Notices



Matariki Celebration: Thursday 4th July from 5pm - 7pm

We are looking forward to our upcoming school celebration of Matariki. This is one of the highlights of our school calendar where we get together as a community to share food, music, activities and (hopefully) star gazing. To make this event successful we rely on the support of our school whānau.

We would appreciate donations of baking or other food to sell, and donations of vegetables for hāngi. We also need volunteers to sell food on the night, serve hāngi, and assist with clean up.

Please either email Brooke at friendsoftearo@gmail.com or complete the form that was emailed to you on 11 June if you can help with any of this and we will be in touch with more details.

You can also access the emailed form by clicking here: [Support for our Upcoming Matariki Celebration Form](#)

Ngā mihi nui

The Friends of Te Aro whānau group

Protect against measles

Just a reminder to be vigilant in the face of an increased risk of measles around the motu. Remember the best protection against measles is two doses of the MMR vaccine.

[Find out if you need a measles vaccination – Te Whatu Ora](#)

Te Whatu Ora has more information on measles on its website:

[Measles – Te Whatu Ora](#)

Important Dates

June

Tues 25 Jun – Kapa Haka group performing at Village on the Park

Fri 28 Jun – Matariki (*school closed*)

July

Thurs 4 July – Matariki School Celebration

Fri 5 July – Last day of term 2

Mon 22 July – Term 3 begins

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