



Te Aro School

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Te Aro School Newsletter – 8 August 2025

News from the Principal's Desk

Tena tatou katoa e te whanau. Talofa. Kia orana, Bula, Dobar dahn, Nabad, Hola, Ciao, Ni hao, Namaste, As-Salaam-Alaikum, Bonjour, Konnichiwa, Buon giorno, Cześć, Mingalarpar, Selamat datang, Walang anuman, Buon giorno, Guten Tag, Cześć, Salamu Aleykum, Hallo, Merhaba, Akkam, Selamat datang, Walang anuman, Mabuhay, Xin chào

Nau mai haere mai

A warm welcome to Jeremy and Wolf. Jeremy has joined Ray and Afsana in Rūma Pohutukawa. Wolf has joined Eva in Rūma Ngaio.

Our water policy and our lunchboxes

We have seen a rise in litter and small drinking cartons being dropped around the school grounds. We have a water only policy at school. Please don't include cartons of juice or Up and Go in your child's lunch box. These drinks can be enjoyed at home. Please don't pack chocolate bars or sweets. These can be enjoyed after school. It would be great to see our landfill waste being reduced and our grounds clear of rubbish. Next week you will find a display in the foyer opposite the office. We are going to show families price differences between individual bags versus multipacks. We want to help you save money and save the environment. - Rico, David, Louie, Sophie, Emme, Hongmong, and Jixuan

Board Elections

Please come into the foyer by the office to read the bios of the five people who are standing in this year's Board elections. I am grateful to each of them for putting themselves forward to join our Board.

Our nominees for the three parent representative positions are:

- **Juliet Glass** (parent of Izy in Rūma Poutama, and Luca in Rūma Nikau)
- **Eric Goddard** (parent of Kora in Ruma Tarata, and Quinn (soon to be in Ruma Tawa)
- **John Kerr** (parent of Athena in Ruma Ngaio)
- **Ashley Stanbridge** (parent of Ochre in Ruma Kauri)
- **Andy Wong** (parent of Cheuk-Yin in Rūma Manuka)

All eligible voters will receive voting forms in the post next week. **Voting closes at 4pm on 10 September.** Voting forms can be posted or hand delivered to school into the ballot box at reception.

Swimming at the Aquatic Centre

Rūma Ngaio and Rūma Tarata have been enjoying a series of swimming lessons at the Aquatic Centre. I visited them at the pool on Wednesday afternoon. It was great to see the students' enthusiasm for their lessons and to hear from Kristin and Eva about the students' progress.

At swimming I like to splash in the pool. I get my face wet when I am swimming. I like to swim by myself. - Brielle

On Thursday I was able to kick myself to the platform. In the middle of doing this I started to sink! I tried jumping up so I could get to the platform. My swimming teacher helped me. - Fyyfe

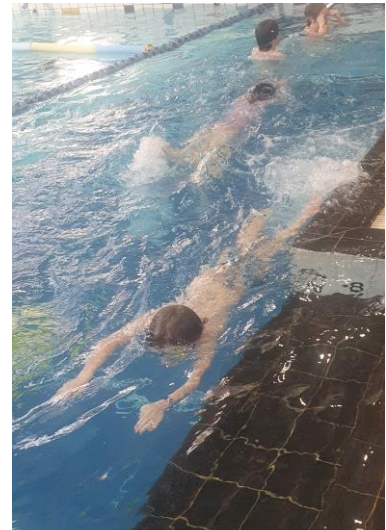
Now I'm swimming like a grown up. I learnt to swim like this when I lived in Bali. You need to be able to swim in Bali as there are swimming pools everywhere in Bali. - Wolf

I am good now at doing a front starfish by myself. I got better at doing this with the help from the swimming teacher holding me under my tummy. - Tomasa

I have enjoyed getting sinking seals. In the beginning I was a little scared getting them. My teacher helped me get a sinking seal by pushing me a little under the water. - Altheah

I have enjoyed being able to do my front starfish. When I am a front starfish I blow bubbles in the water. I was scared of doing this at first. I like to swim with my swimming teacher. - Kainat

Rūma Kauri loved going to swimming in weeks one and two of the term. It was wonderful to watch their confidence improve in the water and skills develop even further. Big shout out to our bus driver, Rob, who made our journey to and from the pool much more exciting by playing the students' favourite songs. - Ella (Rūma Kauri's teacher)



Our swimming has gone so well. The kids have been so motivated, independent and organised. We have only had forgotten togs once! They have mostly been doing a great job of changing themselves and managing all their clothes, towels, goggles, etc. They have slotted into the routines very well - helped by doing it in a 2 week block. They have been very responsive and respectful of their teachers and have been giving their best effort in their lessons. They've had lots of fun in their free time - being respectful of any members of the public, keeping themselves and others safe and taking the opportunity to put into practice lots of the skills they are learning, in a playful environment. - Kristin (Rūma Tarata's teacher)

I love that the swimming programme is built around water safety, teaching survival skills, regardless of students swimming ability. I was continually surprised by how well our children responded to really challenging activities, like falling overboard out of a rubber dingy and capsizing kayaks that students then flip back over individually and climb back into. It's great to see the confidence in the students grow from day to day. They gain just as much from the 30 minutes that they get to play with their peers as they do from their formal lesson. Our attendance for swimming was really positive! We celebrated the high number of students who attended all eight lessons within the 2 week timeframe. - Mathew (one of Rūma Manuka's teachers)

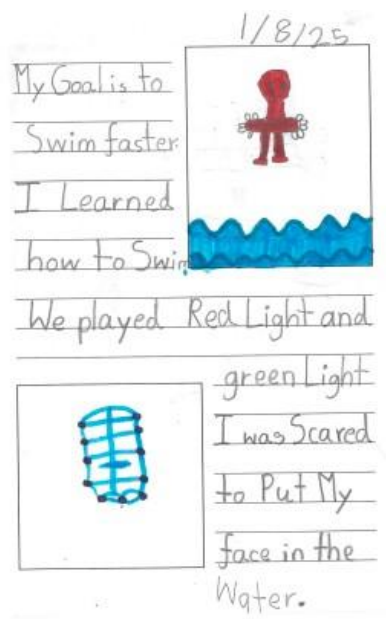


Rūma Ngaio has been loving swimming! We are keeping swimming journals - they set goals and have been reflecting on their progress. - Eva (Rūma Ngaio's teacher)

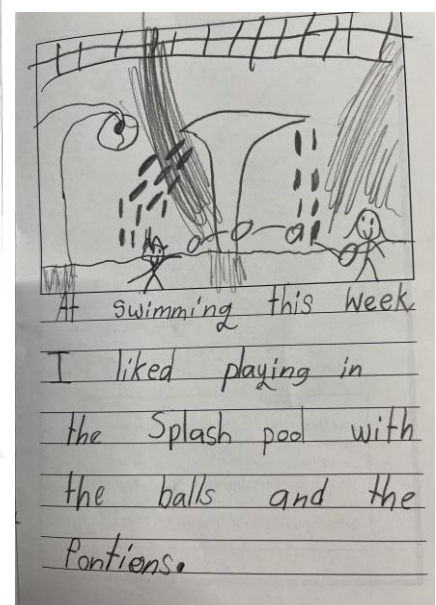
Here is some of their wonderful work -



By Astra Naing



By Chibuikem Eme



By Athena Kerr

Visit to Tawatawa Reserve

As part of our local action work in our environmental education programme we visited Tawatawa Reserve yesterday. We were the first group of fifteen students to visit the reserve. We planted trees - quite a lot of trees, grasses and herbs. It wasn't as muddy as we expected. The soil was quite hard to dig into. We had to dig holes deep enough for the whole plant to go into the soil with only a little bit above the ground. In the base of each hole we placed some 'snot' which was a jelly-like substance. The 'snot' acts as a polymer and holds moisture in the soil so the plants don't need to be watered. It was great to help plant more trees, grasses and shrubs because they will attract more insects to this park. We were working with Annie who was really grateful for our support. We felt happy undertaking this work. We felt grateful to be out planting trees. - Livvy, Willow and Luca



Garden to Table

The Thursday gardeners harvested silverbeet and spinach from the lower gardens. We added the spinach and silverbeet into our potato curry. We included garlic, onions, paprika, spices including a little chilli, tinned tomatoes, potatoes, salt and a pinch of sugar. We spent our lunchtime making and frying our roti. Lots of the class tried the curry. Weirdly the class doesn't really like eating onions. The class loved the roti and lots of people asked for more roti. There is something about fried bread! Afsana said we did an overall great job. Afsana got a little stressed out as she decided late in the session we should serve our curry with roti. Cooking with Afsana is fun. - Thursday's chefs: Piper, Pia, Drey, Farris and Gracelyn



Pre Production - we're getting ready!

We have been working on the script. The senior drama group has the job of linking all the different groups and class items together. We don't want to give too much away but we have been rehearsing our characters. Having written the script together we now need to develop our characters. Some of us are going to be hosts on the night. We are using humour and people in the group are making suggestions to others who have roles about how they can bring their characters to life. Acting on the smaller stage, in front of the big stage, is going to be exciting. Also seeing the whole performance instead of being backstage is going to be fantastic. - Rose, Alexandra and Esther

In Mathew's music group, after making music digitally, we have started to play instruments to make some of our music. When Bob Bickerton visited us for Matariki he played a hue. He showed Jo how we could use our hue to make our own instrument. Mathew cut the top off the hue so that we can hold up to our mouth to play. It's pretty hard to play it. You have to get a perfect angle to hold the hue. You can't have it right on your chin when you blow it. - Naksh



I'm loving working on our production item with my class. They have been so interested in exploring the history of the Aro Valley. They were very engaged in the exploring of ideas on our walk and in helping to develop our item. They were really interested in the facts and great stories Ella Hardy shared with us. They have loved having a go at writing their own poems about what they have learned and have enjoyed being collaborative - putting together lines from different people's poems to create one poem. Now they are working really hard on the performance aspect - following directions and remembering actions and lines quickly. It's surprising and pleasing to have quite a few of them confident enough to make suggestions to improve the staging - their ideas are great! It's interesting to see how they seem aware of their own strengths - so those who would cope with a speaking part volunteer for it and those who would find it very challenging have not. They are excited and ambitious but have also been able to handle the limitations that we have to work within - time limits, budget constraints, generally dealing with keeping it real. As a teacher I love the opportunity to try creating a class item in different ways, harnessing the input and enthusiasm of parents and learning new skills myself like using audio programmes for recording, screen printing costumes, etc. So much fun. I love production! - Kristin (Rūma Tarata's teacher)

It's great to see so many of the senior school students shining within their chosen area of the arts. The drama students have written an amazing script and allocated roles. The dance group has choreographed some slick routines. Wearable Arts groups are creating some amazing looking outfits and the music group has composed some very creative digital pieces. We look forward to it all coming together! I'm looking forward to the music group's upcoming percussion project using the nature around us. We've been rehearsing learning about rhythm and beat with the percussion instruments we have at school. - Mathew (one of Rūma Manuka's teachers)



Rūma Ngaio is in the thick of rehearsals and we have been having a great time collaborating to make decisions about dance, costumes and more. Everyone in the class is working so hard and being really supportive of each other to ensure we all do our best. We are all very excited to perform on stage! - Eva (Rūma Ngaio's teacher)

Handball Tournament

We played in a handball tournament last week. I really enjoyed the tournament. I know a lot of people there from other schools that I have played football and cricket with. The game against Sacred Heart was the most exciting. We made a big comeback at the end of the game. We went from a loss in the first half of the game to winning the game. - JJ



It was fun going to the tournament. I met new people. Made new friends. I played well in fact I got a certificate as best pivotor. - Yashar



Speeches in the Senior School

Our Years 5 -8 students are working towards the school speech competition on Wednesday 20 August. Finalists in each year level will then represent the school at our cluster speech competition on Monday 25 August.

I really like writing speeches and I enjoy public speaking. I enjoyed the process of writing my speech especially this year as I feel passionate about my speech topic which is Why we Should be Allowed to Stay Inside During Break Times. Most people have agreed with my position. They want to have choice between staying inside and going outside. I hope that Ray, Sue and Anna will think about what I have said in my speech. I am hoping that I will get to speak in front of the whole senior syndicate. I'm not scared of having an audience so that doesn't worry me. I need to focus on not speaking too quickly and to project my voice. - Neva



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



Change of name for Race Relations Day

We have decided to give this special day, which we celebrate each year, a more meaningful name so that our students and whānau have a better understanding of the day's purpose. We think this new name reflects our goals for this important celebration more clearly. Race Relation Day will become

"Cultural Connections Celebration"

Watch out for more information about this year's celebration which will be held in week 3 next term, on Tuesday October 21st.

We are proposing a change in your area

Absolutely Positively
Wellington City Council
Me Heke Ki Pōneke

Proposed Changes to Speed Limits close to School

We have received a leaflet from Wellington City Council outlining upcoming proposed changes to speed limits on streets close to school at school drop off and pick up times.

The proposed changes relate to Abel Smith Street, The Terrace and Buller Street.

It is proposed that the speed limit on these streets will reduce from 50km to 30km per hour from 8.10am-9.10am and 2.40pm-3.40pm school days only.

The proposal will go to the Koata Hatepe/Regulatory Processes Committee meeting on 28 August 2025. If approved, the proposal will be installed by 1 July 2026.

Important Dates

August

Mon 4, Wed 6, Thurs 7, Fri 8 August –
Swimming – Ngaio and Tarata

Mon 25 Aug – Speech Competition at
Mount Cook

September

Thurs 4 Sept – Whole School Production

Wed 10 Sept – Election Day for Te Aro
School Board of Trustees.
Poll closes at 4pm.
Results declared on Tues 16 Sept

Fri 19 Sept – Last day of term

Term Dates 2025

Term 3 2025

Monday 14 July – Friday 19 September

Term 4 2025

Monday 6 October – Wed 17 December
(school finishes at 12pm)

Labour Day – Monday 27 October

Term Dates 2026

Term 1 2026

Wednesday 4 February – Thursday 2 April

Waitangi Day – Friday 6 February

Good Friday – Friday 3 April

Term 2 2026

Monday 20 April – Friday 3 July

Anzac Day – Observed Monday 27 April

King's Birthday – Monday 1 June

Term 3 2026

Monday 20 July – Friday 25 September

Term 4 2026

Monday 12 October – Wed 16 December
(school finishes at 12pm)

Labour Day – Monday 26 October