



Te Aro School

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Te Aro School Newsletter – 5 September 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 Aamira, Kiya, Dean, Dylan and Skylar who have joined our school community. Aamira and Kiya have joined Serah in Rūma Tawa. Dean and Dylan have joined Anna in Rūma Nikau. Skylar has joined Ella in Rūma Kauri.

Production

It was a long but wonderful day yesterday. Thank you for getting your children to Wellington East Girls' College for last night's school production *Tō Tātou Hāpori - In Our Neighbourhood*. This biennial school event is a powerful way for us to celebrate our students, our community and our learning. The items in last night's production reflected recent learning that we have undertaken across all areas of the curriculum, including Literacy, History, Te Reo Māori, Technology, and The Arts (music, dance, drama).



Thank you to all of you who sent messages to the teachers overnight or this morning including leaving voicemail messages on the school answer phone or who popped into the office to say how much they enjoyed last night's show.

I wish to acknowledge the creativity of our students. What a journey many of them have been on over the course of this term, especially our brave new entrants taking to the stage last night. They shared these thoughts with me this morning:

My favourite part of our dance was when we danced like being an aeroplane with my arms and I also liked the swishy arm move we had to make. - Vinoshka



I liked Billie as the sun. I liked dancing. I had fun. – Leo

I loved being the sun and when I danced using swishy arms. I liked the glasses I wore because they had flashing lights. My mum and dad liked my dancing. - Billie-Rose



I liked singing to Billie-Rose the sun. I liked doing the golden circles with my arms. I liked how all the people watched us. - Tanmay

I was a bit nervous being on the stage. I tried to find my dad but I couldn't find him. I liked seeing my brother Chibuikem on the stage. He thanked the birds. - David

I liked twirling my body when I danced. I liked our starting bit to our dance. I liked the rainbow lights shining down on me. - Quinn

I liked the rainbow lights and my butterfly costume. I liked how I wore wings. I liked ALL of the production. - Aamira

I am so grateful to the staff team, kaiako/teachers and kaimahi/support staff, who have guided and supported their classes or their groups of students to be able to stand tall on the stage. In particular I wish to mihi to Mathew who provided strong and calm leadership throughout this term as we headed towards production day and evening.



Thanks to Hemi for his work with our kapa haka group and to Cathie for the support she provided our senior students who opened the evening and ensured our rich cultural diversity was celebrated and honoured.

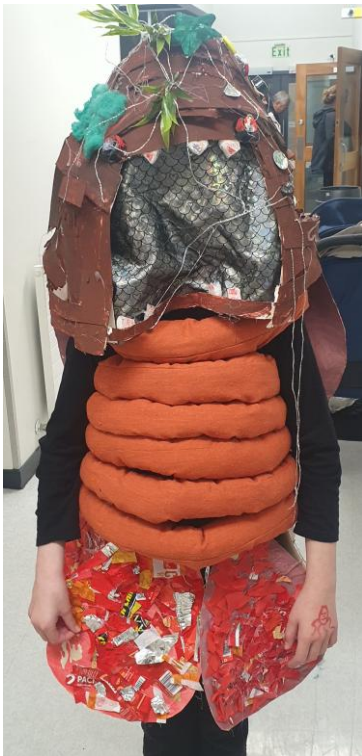


Finally thank you to the parents, caregivers, and Friends of Te Aro for transporting our props from school and then back to school, in helping to make costumes, scene sets, and ensuring we were fed on the night.



Thank you to Hells Pizza Cuba Street for supporting our school with discounted pizzas for our fundraiser.

My favourite items were the time travellers and wearable arts. I really liked the tui and mushroom costumes. In two years I would like to be in the wearable arts group. – Ochre





I was literally wiggling in my seat in the car on the way to production. I was a little nervous and a little uncertain about the evening. In two years when I am in Year 5 I'd like to be in the wearable arts group at our next production. I thought Tawa (the five year olds) were cute. Billie was the star! - Noor

I was excited to get up on the stage. I enjoyed when Sosha and Marley made loud noises when the taniwha Ngake crashed into the mountain. I liked Nikau's dance. I liked how they danced. - Jasmine

I liked flapping my wings. I was a bird. I felt both nervous and excited being on the stage. I liked Tarata's production item. I liked joining in their song. - Anais.





Artsplash

Last week, our 40 strong Artsplash choir sang at the Michael Fowler Centre with ten other schools from across the Wellington region. I am very grateful to Tessa and Ella who taught and rehearsed the songs with our choir and supported them on the night of their performance. It was such a joyful occasion.

I really liked singing in the choir. I really liked singing Celebration as we got to hold and use sparkly pompoms. I liked learning all the songs. I'll definitely join the choir again if I get the chance. – Therese



I really liked being able to sing with lots of different children and schools. It was great being able to sing with my friends. It was such a great experience. - Franca

I was surprised to learn that we sang in the third Artsplash show of the week. I liked learning sign language for the song Paradise. I'd love to do it all over again. - Sarah

It was really cool being in Artsplash. I liked Distance because it was a chill song. I might join the choir again in two years time when they have Artsplash again. I was a little scared at the start of the evening. After singing one song I felt fine. – Oriol



I liked the opportunity to go down on the stage if you wanted. I liked the sound of all the voices singing under the big dome ceiling. It sounded amazing. I used my sparkly pompom to spell out Te Aro School. I liked the wearable art item too. - Nina

*It was cool having so many different schools coming together to sing. I didn't have a favourite song because I liked them all! I think children should definitely give Artsplash a go!
- Luci*



Comments on the Eve of Production

In kapa haka I like the actions we do that go with our waiata. I like using the patu and the rakau. I like how we get to wear a moko on our faces. I'm proud of all the performances I've been in. I think our production performance might be a little scary to perform as we are doing new items. – Kaha



I love being in kapa haka with the group and my friends. I love getting to perform. It is so much fun. I think, as a group, we work well together. We are confident and have volume when we perform. I have learnt about working together and memorising the songs and actions. I love working with Hemi. He's awesome! - Georgie

I like that in kapa haka some people have lead roles. We have to show excellence and enthusiasm to be in a lead role. It's important to have a kapa haka group here at school. Without the group we wouldn't be able to have the school having a role at the Aro Fair. I most enjoy the songs, the waiata, we sing. I really like working with Mathew and Hemi. - Junyi



I love how we do haka and we use poi. I love how we learn and speak te reo. I'm proud to be in kapa haka. Up until I came to Te Aro I spent my whole life in Indonesia and I didn't know about kapa haka. I love how in kapa haka the boys and the girls both get to each do special roles. – Gracelyn

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. Voting closes on Wednesday 10 September.

Cluster Speech Competition

Our school speech finalists, Zhen (Year 8), Alexandra (Year 7), Manasvi (Year 6) and Thea (Year 5) represented our school at the cluster speech competition on Monday 25 August at Mt Cook School. Ray, Tessa and I were very proud of each of them. They were four of the 24 speeches that we heard that evening. Speech topics included *Why sleep is important*; *Why people should run*; *Why younger siblings should get all privileges*; *Why ballet should be for everyone*; *Hikoi mo te tiriti*; *Why you should pull out a book*; and *Why boys should do more chores than girls*.

Congratulations to Thea and Manasvi who were both placed first in their year level sections.



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



Monday marked the start of Te Marama o te Reo at school. This week, there has been a bingo challenge sent home, a colouring competition, and a schoolwide reo challenge, encouraging ākonga to use reo Māori to greet others at school.

On Wednesday, Tess held a lunchtime karapu Māori where she showed some students how to make poi toa. Poi toa are a type of poi with different tikanga from the ones we use in kapa haka. These ones are made to be played with and thrown and even kicked!



Keep an eye on the display board outside the office, to find out what's happening each week.



School Notices

WELLINGTON, NZ
FILM SCREENING

A fundraiser for



Te Aro
SCHOOL

seen

THE FILM

PARENTTV PRESENTS

A special fundraising event

TRANSFORMATIVE
DOCUMENTARY ABOUT
THE POWER OF HEALING
AND ITS IMPACT ON THE
WAY WE RAISE
CHILDREN.

Come join us!



Vogelmorn Upstairs
93 Mornington Road



7th September at 4:00



NZD20

Onesie Day

Wear a onesie to support the free ambulances in Wellington!

Bring a gold coin donation to school or donate money to the fundraiser!
onesieday.co.nz



**12th September
Friday**

Onesie Day

Please help us raise money for Wellington Free Ambulance. We are encouraging all students and staff to wear a onesie (if they have one) on Friday 12 September. If your child does not have a onesie they can instead wear a costume or their PJs or an oodie.

We want to help raise money for the free ambulance service we have here in Wellington. A week ago we had to call an ambulance for a student here at school. The ambulance crew came and helped our student and took them to Wellington Hospital.

It would be great if we could all donate some money towards this cause - as much as you can afford.

Thank in advance for your support,

Angelos, Yashar, Keyzelle, Ryan and Lapa (Senior Leadership team)

Important Dates

September

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

Fri 12 Sept – Onesie Day

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