

KIA MANAWANUI

Te Rāwhiti & Te Rā Pānui - 8 April 2022

Class 2 & 3 - Friday afternoon outdoor handwork



Tuakana/teina for Class 2 and 3: a creative solution by a creative teacher!

MESSAGE TO OUR COMMUNITY

Kia ora koutou e ngā whānau o te kura o Te Rā, me ngā whānau o Te Rāwhiti hoki.

Goodness, beauty and truth ... these three noble aspirations are often used to distinguish the three 'realms' of Waldorf education:

- In the **kindergarten**, teachers wish to imbue the young children with the sense that the world is quintessentially GOOD.
- In the **Lower School** years, up to Class 7, our curriculum brings to the children the message that while perhaps not everything is good at all times, the world is still a very BEAUTIFUL place.
- It is not until the **High School** years (from Class 8/Year 9), that the Waldorf education leads the students to an experience of the world being a place where, ultimately, our quest must be for



TRUTH - our own inner truth which by then (hopefully) can stand firm on a strong foundation of the earlier two.

So, if you ever wondered why we bother with beeswax crayons and colourful cursive writing in Main Lesson books (instead of felt pens and photocopies), carefully designed blackboard drawings (instead of whiteboard diagrams) and hand-dyed knitting yarn that is 100% wool: all of this contributes to an environment where our human senses can rest and be nourished by its beauty. And there is another quality to the human act of creating beautiful things: it comes at a slower pace, and it requires us to bring our attention to the act of creating.

And here we are, nearly at Easter. The Easter festival is traditionally seen as a celebration of transformation: of something that was dark or hidden from sight, dead even, into something that is beautiful in its new awakening. In the seasonal cycles of the Northern Hemisphere, this is echoed in the collective experience of the rebirth of nature during spring.

Here, in the autumn days of Aotearoa, we can find the transformational beauty of our Southern Easter in the softening of the light, in the clear night skies, and in a quieter, perhaps more inward appreciation of the the beauty of the world as it, slowly, slowly, moves toward winter, and toward the new awakening which will be signalled, eventually, by Matariki, our country's newest public holiday.

Wishing you a wonderful weekend, and the blessings of this time of autumn Easter

Arohanui nā

Kerstin Wagner (Tumuaki)

Nature's inspiration for math - captured for Class 1 children



From the School Board: an Invitation

The next board election of parent representatives is coming up soon! While the election is not until September, nominations will open in July, and we are now putting out a **first call** to our community!

The board, must ensure that the school gives effect to the **Treaty of Waitangi**. Being a member of the Te Rā school board is an opportunity for parents and other members of our school community to be

involved with **all aspects of governance** for Te Rā School, which includes safe-guarding our **Special Character**.

The four key areas of governance are:

1. Leadership
2. Accountability
3. Employer role
4. Representation

The board sets and monitors the **strategic direction** for the coming years, so being a member means you can be part of this mahi. Parent representatives work together with the board representatives of the Kapiti Waldorf Trust, the staff representative and the principal to shape the future of our school. A background in governance is NOT a requirement! **Nāku te rourou, nāu te rourou, ka ora ai te iwi** – we need many skills around the table, and most of all the wish to be part of the mahi! So ...

- Do you have a background or interest in policy, finance, employment, or keen to grow your skills in these areas?
- Do you have prior experience with governance, or you would like to gain some?
- Are you passionate about our students, Waldorf education, our school and our community?
- Do you want to be part of a team that is constantly working toward making Te Rā an even better place for your children's education?

We would love to hear from you – please contact michaelf@tera.school.nz for more information!

From the School Teacher Team

Reflections on Change ...

There have been a few times in my life when I have thought, "I have really got this." I have learned, often painfully, that this was usually not an indication of **having got** anything, but an invitation for change and a harbinger of unpredictable challenges. In my experience, the experience of such certainty is, ironically, almost inevitably the very moment the wheels fall off, and any fleeting sensation of absolute confidence is replaced by uncertainty.



By the middle of 2021, I thought, "We are nailing this." The school felt more settled and harmonious than I have ever experienced, and I remember expressing that to some of my colleagues, "Yes, we've got this!" we agreed. Perhaps I should have learned by then!

Instead, the end of 2021 brought unprecedented challenges to our community and our staff. As uncomfortable as it is to fall off the pedestal of confidence, change does bring new opportunities and potential for transformation. I often imagine how a tree must feel as, for the first time, it experiences the first signs of an emerging bud, something previously unknown. I imagine that its initial reaction is to fear the coming changes and want things to return to 'normal' – but tree would not want its buds to remain closed!

Now, after the last two years, I am not sure any of us know what exactly 'normal' is, as we are still very much in a time of change. However, there is no doubt that amid the uncertainty new possibilities are constantly emerging. The most noticeable of these has been the children's resilience, flexibility, and their ability to support each other. More than ever, the spirit of tuakana/teina (the mutually supportive and fluid relationship between older and younger) is evident in classrooms and across the playground.

Last week I had the class 7 children almost begging David Simpson and me to have Class 5 join them on the Top Field for a game of soccer, something that has continued in the spirit of good sportsmanship and friendship. More than ever before, the older classes have been forming relationships with the younger classes, offering support and encouragement.

I saw this first hand when Class 4 children joined Class 5 while their teacher was self-isolating. I was working with a group of Class 5 children at the front of the class while Class 4 children worked independently on their Home Learning Packs. While I was discussing the current topic with my group, one of the Class 4 student came up and politely asked us to, "Please keep the noise down as we are trying to concentrate!" It is a rare moment indeed when students ask the teacher to be a little quieter - if that is a sign of the coming changes, bring it on!

Now, while I hesitate to say, or even infer, that "We have really got this", I will say that as far as I can see **we**, and by **we** I mean the Te Rā community, are doing our absolute best to navigate the ongoing changes and challenges. I can also say, without any hesitation at all, 'we **are** doing this' and will continue to do this because it is worth it. And it is.

Arohanui

Paul Fletcher

Class 5 Teacher

The River Cannot Go Back (by Kahlil Gibran, 1883 -1931)

It is said that before entering the sea
a river trembles with fear.
She looks back at the path she has traveled,
from the peaks of the mountains,
the long winding road crossing forests and villages.
And in front of her,
she sees an ocean so vast,
that to enter
there seems nothing more than to disappear forever.
But there is no other way.
The river can not go back.
Nobody can go back.
To go back is impossible in existence.
The river needs to take the risk
of entering the ocean
because only then will fear disappear,
because that's where the river will know
it's not about disappearing into the ocean,
but of becoming the ocean.

Class 3: Measuring Time & Immeasurable Moments



Which candle measures the length of the school day?



Outdoor Friday: roasting autumn apples



Drop by drop water clock

Thank you to Sam & Nic Bishell

... for lending Jason the trailer to clear out all sorts of rubbish from our grounds!
Ngā mihi :-)

Covid Update

Our school board, which includes representation from the Kapiti Waldorf Trust, is in the process of developing the new Covid-19 risk management plan so that we can move into the next phase with confidence and clarity.

Following the changes to the Health Order that came into force this past Monday/Tuesday, managing Covid-19 related risk will no longer be a matter of implementing government directives that apply across the country. Instead, each school is tasked with creating their own Covid-19 risk management framework – meaning greater autonomy as well as greater responsibility to be held by our governing bodies (the Kapiti Waldorf Trust and the Te Rā School Board).

We are currently consulting with our staff and expect that the plan can be circulated to our kindergarten and school community before the Easter break, with the view of it providing guidance from the beginning of the new term.

And still the same ...

Returning to school after COVID-19

- Students who test positive for COVID-19 are not required to self-isolate past seven days, **but they shouldn't return to school if they are still feeling unwell.**
- Many children will have long lasting runny nose and cough after viral infections. If it is **over 10 days since the onset of the COVID infection and they are no longer feeling unwell**, they are unlikely to be transmitting any active COVID infection and can return to school. However, if they are continuing to feel unwell or their symptoms are worsening after 10 days then GP review is recommended.

We continue to advise the parents/caregivers of the children in each class when a child has tested positive **if it is likely that they were on site during the infectious period.**

Please remain vigilant for symptoms right now and follow government guidance on testing, on letting people you have been close with know and so forth if symptoms arise within your whānau. Please notify kaiarahi@tera.school.nz (for kindergarten children) and principal@tera.school.nz (for school children).

We thank everyone for keeping children with any sickness home - aside from being good practice at all times, this is particularly important right now.



School Policy Review

In 2022, all schools will review the **Health, Safety, and Welfare Policy** section throughout the year. The main, overarching policy will be reviewed at the end of the year.

In Term 1, the focus is on the **Health and Safety Management and Emergency, Disaster, and Crisis Management** sections.

Reviews are open to board, staff, and parents/caregivers/whānau. Please go to <https://tera.schooldocs.co.nz/>, look for the **Current Review** tab and follow the instructions.

If this is your first time on SchoolDocs, please email the office for User Name and Password.

Lost Property

On Monday (11 April) all of this terms lost and misplaced items will be spread out on tables by the hall deck. Please come and look for your child's lost clothing. Unclaimed items will be rehomed to a second hand store before the start of term 2.



Looking for Items ... can you help?

Storage Cupboard

Do you have a cupboard or filing cabinet to sell or donate? The kindergarten is looking for a cupboard to store A4 folders in the cabin office. This could be a cupboard or vertical filing cabinet. If you have one to sell or donate, please email executiveofficer@tera.school.nz



Reminders

Absences (very important)

Absentees can be notified to the office via School Apps or by leaving a message on the school absentee line. You can also text absences to the school cellphone (021) 295 8618. We ask that

absences are notified before 9.00 am every morning.

The Ministry of Education requires us to code absences, so when you are advising that your child is absent, we ask that you provide us with the reason for the absence.

Dates

Remember to check the Diary of Dates at the end of the newsletter!

COMMUNITY NOTICES

New family home needed !!!

We have been given our 90 days notice to leave our rental so that the landlords can sell to a family member. Therefore, we are on the hunt for a new home to rent - we need something by about June 11 (but could move sooner). We are a family of four, myself (Beba), Matt, Teo who is in Class 1 and Anka who is in kindy. We will consider all parts of the Kapiti Coast, but would prefer to be close to Raumati South in order to make it easier to get to Te Ra. We are looking for a 2-3 bedroom (could do bigger if affordable) house, but we are open to alternative living such as getting a tiny home, if land was available to live on. We definitely want somewhere we can have a vege garden, bring our cat (super well house-trained), and ideally our 7 chooks too - we may reluctantly move them on if they are a barrier to finding somewhere. We have excellent references, are honest, reliable, and happy to do work around the place.

We would really appreciate any leads or offers - please email me at bebamclean@gmail.com or call/message 0212963233 - many thanks, Beba.

Flatmate Wanted

Paraparaumu Beach , available now. \$150 per week , room has double bed if required.
Please contact Jill on 0273805566 if interested :)



Very sweet cat needing a new home ...

Scoot is our wonderfully loved wee 5 year old cat who we unfortunately cannot take with us following the sale of our house. She isn't a travelling cat type! She has never been to the vet other than early on to be spayed. She is very sweet, cuddly (although a bit on her terms) and will likely rehome reasonably well we think. Happy to provide her first few weeks of meat and her favourite blanket. If you might be able to have her from this weekend please contact Shelley on shelleyw@tera.school.nz.

Van for Sale

1997 Toyota Estima Lucida van, current WOF and Rego. 8-seater, or can comfortably fit a double mattress. Please contact Erin for details. 02101475696

Junior Rugby

Paraparaumu Junior Rugby Club registrations are now open for the upcoming season. Go to www.sporty.co.nz/paraparaumujuniorrugby to register your child. We have rugby grades from Y0/1 through to Y8. The season kicks off in early May with training starting in April. Any questions, please contact rego.pjrc@gmail.com.

Vet Care

An Animal's Journey

S J Lonergan BVSc

Home based veterinary care, reiki and acupuncture

021 0224 4211

ananimalsjourney@gmail.com

Joanne is a parent of Evie in Class 1.

FUN ZONE - Term 1 Holiday Programme:

Tuesday 19 April through to Friday 29 April Based in Kenakena School Hall Book with us for the Term 1 Holidays! We have exciting in-venue games and activities and some adventurous excursions sorted to bust holiday boredom Take a look at our itinerary, enrol and book through our website NOW! Or call us on 0800 543 9696 for more information 😊😊 <https://www.funzone.co.nz/holiday-programmes>

DATES 2022

Term 1

Thurs 14 April - Last Day Term 1

Term 2

Mon 2 May - First Day Term 2

Wed 11 May - KWT Meeting

Thurs 19 May - School Board Meeting - 7pm

Mon 6 June - Queens Birthday

Tues 7 June - School Teacher PLD day (school closed for students)

Friday 24th June - Matariki Public Holiday

Thurs 30 June - School Board Meeting - 7pm

Frid 8 July - Last Day Term 2

Term 3

Mon 25 July - First Day Term 3

Thurs 11 Aug - School Board Meeting - 7pm
Mon 29 Aug - School Teacher PLD day (school closed for students)
Sat 17 Sept - Open Day
Thurs 22 Sept - School Board Meeting - 7pm
Fri 30 Sept - Last Day Term 3

Term 4

Mon 17 Oct - First Day Term 4
Mon 24 Oct - Labour Day
Thurs 3 Nov - School Board Meeting - 7pm
Tues 13 Dec - Last Day Term 4 Kindergartens
Wed 14 Dec - Last Day Term 4 School

Te Rā Waldorf School - School App


Available on:


PLAY STORE & APP STORE



Contact Us

 Facebook

 89 Poplar Avenue, Raumati Sou...

 office@tera.school.nz

 04 299 0812

 tera.school.nz/

**A creative solution by a creative teacher when colleagues
can't be here: tuakana-teina**