

KIA MANAWANUI

Te Rāwhiti & Te Rā Pānui - 6 December 2022

Kindergarten programme finishes Tues 13 Dec

Kindergarten Holiday programme Wed 14 - Fri 16 Dec

School finishes Wed 14 Dec 12noon

MESSAGE TO OUR COMMUNITY

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

This is our last newsletter of the year 2022! All around, alongside the celebrations of Advent in kindergarten and school, we are all working hard to prepare for the end of the term. School classrooms are made ready for "Class Moving Day" (next Tuesday), there's a Class 7 graduation to prepare, and school reports to be written! All the more important to remember the "reason for the season", perhaps with the daily lighting of two candles on the advent wreath this week, or perhaps by getting up just that little bit earlier to enjoy the quiet of the early summer mornings that lend themselves to quiet reflection. We hope that you all manage to find these moments of peace and gratitude alongside the busyness that always marks the end of the year.

And speaking of gratitude. Last week, the **Tākiri o te Ata Kapa Haka Festival** (photo impressions from the outdoor rehearsal below) would have to be one of the highlights of the year. A big thank you to all who supported our tamariki in being able to participate: Rongo Ngata for sharing the taonga of kapa haka with our students and preparing them so well, Paul Fletcher for overseeing much of the logistics and preparation for the day, the class teachers for their part of the organisation, and the parents who helped out on the day and those who came to support the performance at Our Lady Of Kāpiti School.

A Heartfelt Farewell to Shelley Wrigley

Kāpiti Waldorf Trust have been incredibly blessed to have Shelley on board over the past few years. Not only has she been the Kindergarten Licensee holder, but previous Chair of the School Board, and a super involved parent of children that attended Te Rā School. Shelley has been hugely influential in the development of Te Rāwhiti Kindergarten and Te Rā School over the years.

Now that her children have long since left and their family is needing to embark on new adventures, the time has come for Shelley to pass the torch.

We speak for the kindergarten staff, in expressing our immense gratitude for the extra mahi Shelley has undertaken over the past 2 years - she went above and beyond to ensure that the kindergarten stayed on track through some really difficult times. Her strength, warmth, humour and capacity for getting the job done is really appreciated and will be missed.

On behalf of Te Rā School and Te Rāwhiti Kindergarten we wish, you, Ryan and the children all the best in the next stage of life and want to reiterate that you will always have a place here. So please come back and visit anytime!



This week & next ...

There's lots more happening this week, for example the Class 5 play as well as the Class 6 camp in the Wairarapa. On Friday, we hope to see many of you at our **Christmas Market**, which will be held at school from 3-7pm.

You are also invited to the traditional **Shepherd's Play community performance** next Tuesday 7pm. This is so that the adults don't have to miss out. The school children will get to enjoy the same performance on Wednesday morning, just before they go into their summer holiday break. It's one of those traditions that we love!



Farewells are always a hallmark of this season too, of course. You are welcome to join us at the end of the school day next Tuesday, when the school children and teachers will see off our **Class 7 students**, who are off to the next leg of their journey at Raphael House, Kapiti College and other secondary schools.

One of their teachers, David Simpson, will also be farewelled by our team at the end of this year. David, who had been a member of our faculty for many years in the past, had stepped back into the class teacher role as a long-term reliever. He did this under absolutely extraordinary circumstances at the end of 2021 and has done an incredible job as co-teacher of Class 7 this year. For us colleagues, it has been a privilege to have David's wisdom and his deep knowledge of Waldorf education enriching our formal and informal staff discussions. Thank you David, for the gift of having you as a colleague!

Looking ahead to 2023

Please mark 31 January in your diaries. This is the first day of Term 1, and we will welcome our new Class 1 and all other new school whānau at our pōwhiri, which will probably begin at 11am - more information and confirmation about this will be sent out closer to the time.

Meri Kirihimete, me he ngā mihi o te tau hou 2023!

Ngā manaakitanga, nā

Amanda Bradley (Kindergarten Kaiārahi) & Kerstin Wagner (School Principal)

- PLAYGROUP PĀNUI-

In playgroup news this week ...

We have a couple of spaces available (Tuesdays) if you are interested in playgroup and have a child between the ages of 0-3 years (inclusive) then please email Tash on enrolments@tera.school.nz for further information.

Ngā mihi
The Playgroup Team



Te Rāwhiti - First day of term 1 for all Kindergarten tamariki - Wednesday 1 February 2023

- KINDERGARTEN PĀNUI -

Kia ora Koutou e te whānau,

We hope you have been having a magical Advent season so far.

As you will know our Kinikātene celebrated our advent festival last Tuesday. Our Kaiako set up a beautiful advent spiral with the remaining foliage from the wrath making in the weekend, and decorated it with flowers and crystals. Whaea Livi was our story teller, with each one class at a time coming through the school hall to listen to her advent story, and walk the spiral. Big thank you to Mark Howell for accompanying this part of our festival with his whimsical tunes that created a real mood of reverence.



After the story and spiral, tamariki went back to their classrooms for a special advent pizza meal. A highlight for many were the smores at the end of the day. What a treat!

Thank you to all who are bringing your children to kindy prepared for the summer heat. Sunblock needs to be applied before you leave tamariki at kindy. Please check to see you child has a change of clothes, as water play is becoming increasingly popular!

Ngā mihi nui, nā
Amanda Bradley
Kinikātene Kaiārahi/Centre Manager of Te Rāwhiti



- SCHOOL PĀNUI -

Te Rā School Orchestra: 2023 changes for Senior Orchestra

For many years, the junior and senior orchestras, both under Mary Taylor's expert leadership, have complimented the classroom music programme offered to our ākonga. Rehearsals and performances have become a normal part of our school life. They are a wonderful way for children to carry on with violin or cello after the Class 3 String Programme, or for children playing other orchestra instruments to get the experience of being part of a large ensemble.

Mary has been amazingly supportive in making this affordable for our school and is giving her time at an incredibly reasonable rate.

So far, the school has been able to fully fund this extracurricular activity. In the light of rising costs and the need to prioritise school funds, to make it possible for Mary and our school to continue to provide

this option for students in **Classes 5-7**, from 2023 we need to ask that parents/caregivers of students attending the **Senior Orchestra** make a small financial contribution to help the school cover the cost for offering this optional extracurricular programme.

Orchestra sessions will continue to be scheduled during school hours and members of the orchestra will be excused from their class programme during this time. Class 5, 6 or 7 students not signed up for the orchestra will, as always, attend their respective class lesson with their class teacher.

To sign up your child for the Senior Orchestra 2023 and/or for more details, please [click on this link](#). We will send this form to Class 5-6 whānau in January, but feel free to sign up now if you wish.

Please note that for 2023, the **Class 4 Junior Orchestra** remains fully funded by the school and co-facilitated with the class teacher.

Security at Te Rā during the Summer Break

During the summer break, our security cameras will be recording 24/7. All visitors to our school will be on camera, but the cameras are only accessed and viewed if we have a break-in, theft or vandalism at the school or kindergarten. Every time the cameras are accessed, we record the access time and date, along with the reason.

We ask you to keep vigilant if you are on school grounds over the summer break. We love the fact that our school is open to the community to wander through and enjoy the beautiful surroundings but this brings some challenges.

If you are walking through or spending time at the school, can you please check around classes for broken glass or cast your eyes around to see if anything obvious looks suspicious.

If you see or find anything wrong, please email maintenance@tera.school.nz and finance@tera.school.nz to send a report through.

Christmas Market - 9 December

Come to our lovely Christmas Market on Friday - 3pm to 7pm

We have a huge range of new stall holders bringing with them lots of items we haven't had before like handmade soaps, heirloom perennials, macrame, felted decorations, microgreens, houseplants as well as a full range of sewn items. A number of our favourites are returning like Homegrown Botanica's clothing and balms as well as Saskia Hendrikse's pottery



- PARENT PĀNUI -



Advent wreath making

Thank you to all those who came and joined in with this tradition. It links the practice of marking the four weeks of Advent that is done by the teacher, in the classroom with our seasonal rhythm at home as we head into the Christmas season. A special thank you to:



- Susan Van De Vorstenbosch (for set up, providing vast amounts of foliage and ensuring tikanga was followed when using harakeke)
- Perrine Boy (for collecting foliage and lovely wreaths and managing the clean up)
- Nic Bishell (and Charlie, for creating class AND school wreaths)
- All other parents who made wreaths for their children's classes
- Cat Hendra & Tash Roberston (for all the prep and fundraising efforts)
- Catherine Cooper, Marcelle and Daniel Williams, Summer Borren-Roberston and anyone else who lent a hand with the massive clean up!
- AND TO EVERYONE ELSE who came to make a wreath - thank you for creating such a lovely Advent mood and a beautiful experience especially for those families who were there for the first time.



Enrolments for Class 1 - 2027

If you have a child born in 2020 (who is a sibling of a currently enrolled student) that you would like to enrol to start in Class 1 2027, please fill out an Expression of Interest on our [website](#). By doing this, your child will be offered a place in the kindergarten at the right time, which means we would hold a place in Class 1 2027.

The Class 1 for this year are is filling up fast so get in now!

If you child is starting in Class 1 2025 and 2026, please ensure that Tash has received your Expression of Interest so she can allocate a place in the appropriate kindy class at the right time.

Harvest Fair - March / April 2023

Would you like to be a part of a team to make the magic of the fair happen. Taking all expressions of interest to form a group who would like to manage the running of the fair in the months leading up and on the day, people interested in food, craft, kindergarten stalls, games etc. You would be part of the team that parent liaisons from each class will liase with. If you have questions or would like to put your hand up please contact Tash Robertson on fundraising@tera.school.nz



Rapid Antigen Tests and Masks

FREE and available in the office foyer

We have Rapid Antigen Tests and boxes of adult sized masks available in the office foyer. Please help yourself. You can even grab some for your neighbours and extended family if need be.



2023 TERM DATES - SCHOOL

Term 1

Tuesday 31 January - Thursday 6 April
Waitangi Day - Monday 6 February

Term 2

Monday 24 April - Friday 30 June
Anzac Day – Tuesday 25 April
King’s Birthday – Monday 5 June

Term 3

Monday 17 July - Friday 22 September

Term 4

Monday 9 October - Thursday 14 December
Labour Day – Monday 23 October

- OFFICE NOTICES -

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 4, the policies being reviewed are

- Health, Safety, and Welfare Policy
- Alcohol/Drugs and Other Harmful Substances
- Digital Technology and Cybersafety

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.





Absences (important)

Thank you to all those heeding our call to ALWAYS notify the office when your child is absent! There have been a lot less un-notified absences to follow up recently, which has dramatically reduced the workload for our office staff.

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**.

- 2022 DATES -

Term 4

Monday 5 Dec - **Class 5 play** - time TBC

Tuesday 6 to Friday 9 Dec - **Class 6 Camp**

Friday 9 Dec - **Christmas Market** 3-7 pm

Tuesday 13 Dec - Last Day for Kindergartens - full roll (see information above)

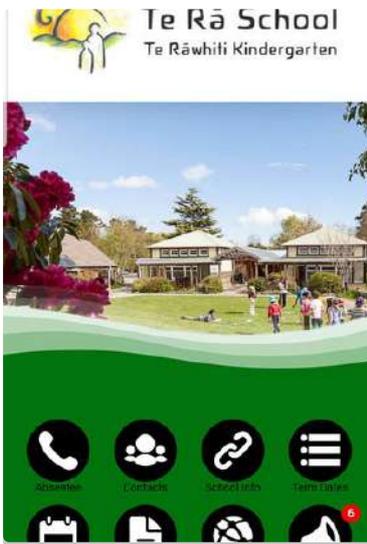
Tuesday 13 Dec - **Shepherds Play community performance** - 7pm (for grown-ups)

Wednesday 14 Dec - Last Day for School

Friday 16 Dec - Last Day for Kindergarten holiday programme 12 pm finish (see info above)



- NOTICES -



Te Rā School App (also for Kindergarten)

Did you know that we have a SCHOOL APP that we use to send out notifications, the newsletter and our special notices.

If you have not downloaded it to your phone, the information on the APP is at the bottom of the newsletter and the SCHOOLAPP is available on the Playstore and APP store.

If you have previously downloaded the APP, please remember to update your classes that you are subscribing too.



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