

KIA MANAWANUI

Te Rāwhiti & Te Rā Pānui ----- 8 February 2023

MESSAGE TO OUR COMMUNITY

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

A warm welcome also to all of our new kindergarten and school whānau whose children have just started, or will soon be starting their sessions at Te Rāwhiti. And of course, nau mai hoki mai, welcome back to all existing kindergarten and school whānau.

He mīharo hoki te timatanga o te tau, ia tau, ia tau. Each year, the beginning of Term 1 is very joyful indeed, with the school pōwhiri to welcome our new whānau and staff, and the Sunflower Welcome to our new Class 1 children. **Thank you to all staff and whānau involved in making this beautiful day for all of us happen!**

Just as Te Rāwhiti and Te Rā are closely interwoven in kaupapa and the mahi of our staff, so was the first day of school, with the two celebrations side by side - started by the karanga, the first voice heard on the marae, the Pōwhiri stands firmly in te ao Māori and is the foundation on which the Sunflower Ceremony then follows.





This week started with **Waitangi Day / Te Rā o Waitangi**. All of us in this country are called on remembering the foundation that is Te Tiriti, and on reflecting what this means for us individually and personally, and as members of different groups and communities.

Last October, many of our teachers and support staff, alongside members of school board and the Kapiti Waldorf Trust embarked on a **professional development journey led by Takawai and Chris Murphy**. Chris and Takawai, both originally teachers, have been running their [Te Pumaomao Nation Building](#) successfully for many, many years, for schools, universities, city councils, public and private organisations. To call this PLD thought-provoking and inspiring is an understatement! The outcomes of this work, which is ongoing over this year, will be visible and tangible - in classrooms for the children as much as in all other spaces that nourish and sustain our education.



As teachers, we are always called to review and shape curriculum and pedagogical practice - after all, Waldorf education at its inception was a call for renewal, not for rehashing! For almost 10 years now, our school has been steadily taking steps towards what our Strategic Plan describes as *He Waka Haurua: Authentic Bicultural Education*.

This is something we want to shape along with our community. One of our stepping stones on that path will be regular opportunities for those who are keen to meet and talk about how we can work together to strengthen bicultural education, tikanga Māori and te reo Māori, at kindergarten and school - to form *Te Rōpō Tautoko i te Kaupapa Māori*.

If that speaks to your heart too, we would love you to join us at **our next hui on Friday 24 February 3-4pm in our hall**.

Ngā manaakitanga, nā

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



Wedding Bliss! Congratulations to Natasha!

Natasha McLean, our fabulous Class 4 teacher, has tied the knot! Congratulations Natasha and Matt, from all of us here - we are so super happy for you both!

- PLAYGROUP PĀNUI-

In playgroup news this term ...

We have a couple of spaces available (Tuesdays and Thursdays) 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



- KINDO -

Donations will be loaded to Kindo by Friday 17th February 2023. The donations loaded will be the amount you indicated on your donations form towards the end of last year. If you did not return a form, we will assume full donations. Once they are loaded, if there are any questions, please feel free to email executiveofficer@tera.school.nz and I will be able to help you out.

School costs ie: orchestra and any other school costs, will be loaded to Kindo by the end of February.

If you have any problems with using Kindo, please feel free to pop in and see me between 9.00 am and 10.00 am each day, or between 2.00 pm and 3.00 pm. I am more than happy to help.

Ngā mihi

Rhonda, Executive Officer

- KINDERGARTEN PĀNUI -

Tēnā Kotou e te whānau,

A warm welcome to all our new families and welcome back to everyone else. The first week back at kinikātene has been beautiful. There is a very strong sense of joy and peace noticeable when I stroll through the kindergarten, which bodes well for the rest of the year!



Staffing updates: I want to honor Olivia Chubb (Ngati Haumia ki Paekākāriki, Ngati Toa (whāngi) Te āti Awa, Kai Tahu), as the new Head Kaiako of our Te Rāwhiti. Olivia has been in ECE for 32 years and has been an integral part of our kindergarten since 1997. She left to become a Mum in 2004 and returned to us in 2007. She brings a wealth of knowledge, both from a Waldorf and te ao Māori perspective and we are extremely blessed to have her hold this space at Te Rāwhiti Kinikātene.

She will continue to be the Kaiako of our Ruru class and will work closely with myself as the Kaiārahi and her fellow kaiako to ensure Te Rāwhiti continues to be a wonderful place for our tamariki.

We also want to welcome Nicola Bell who is returning to us to work in Korimako, along with Tina Regtien and Sarah Wheeler. Rebecca Pene will be returning to Ruru shortly, along with Åsa Pettersson and Dianna Farry. Selena Hack will be working on Fridays in Kereru. And of course Eija Frost is back as Kaiako in Riroriro. What a dream team!

Sunblock and sunhats: Thank you to everyone for remembering to send your child to kinikātene prepared for this weather. If your child uses a particular kind of sunblock, and you don't want them using the cancer society brand, please send you preferred kind to kindergarten with them and let your Kaiako know.

Child's Belongings: Please make sure you take all your child's belongings home at the end of each day. We are building up an impressive collection of clothing and gumboots which clutters up the deck and creates quite the tripping hazard.

Whānau Class Hui Tuesday 21st Feb 6.30-8.30: All kinikātene class hui will be held on the same night. All of us will gather in the school hall for a talk by myself about the fundamentals of Waldorf Pedagogy. Then parents will go to their child's class for a hui with their class kaiako.

Looking forward to connecting with many of you as the year progresses.

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

- SCHOOL PĀNUI -

2023 School Dress Code

It's either loved (because it creates clarity of expectations ...) or loathed (because the clarity comes as a rule ...) - the Dress Code is one of those things that is easy to put in the too-hard basket, for teachers as much as parents. It's another thing to keep an eye on, and particularly for older children, another thing to discuss and insist on.

But there are good reasons for it, to do with health and safety as much as with creating optimal conditions for learning, including healthy habits of self-management. You can now find the full version on the website or read it [here](#).

We have kept it short & sweet and not gone into too many details. If you do have questions about specific aspects of the Dress Code relating to your child, please speak in the first instance with your child's class teacher.

Thank you for supporting us from your end! Ngā mihi nui!

The School Teachers

Please check 2023 dates below for your Class Whānau Hui for this term

2023 Changes to Assessment & Reporting (Classes 1-7)

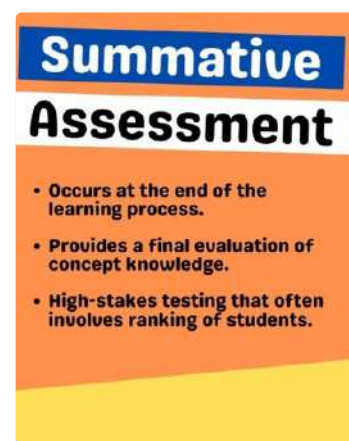
Over the last years, starting with the curriculum area math, teachers have been reviewing how to carry out assessments and track student learning and achievement in ways that are more suited to tracking individual progress. We have now made a decision to shift to a new way of doing this, and it will affect also on how we report student achievement to parents. As school, we are fortunate to have relationships with other schools who have moved in the same direction, and we can learn from what has worked for them (and also from what hasn't, of course).

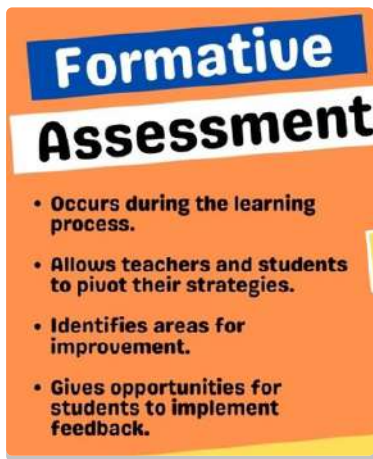
We believe that this is an exciting change that will enhance learning and teaching at Te Rā School.

MOVING AWAY FROM SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT ...

Most of you will know that teachers assess student learning against expectations for their age group. This is most formalised for math, reading and writing. Waldorf Schools in Aotearoa NZ have agreed on benchmarks for each class, articulated into "Learning Steps", that guide teachers in planning and assessing. For Class 4 and above, we also carry out standardised tests that are referenced against national benchmarks that apply for all schools, not just Waldorf.

For parents, this can be useful to understand how their child is going, particularly if they are worried about how well they are doing. It is information that is useful to give an overall picture of how we are doing as a school, and it feeds into a national project where Waldorf Schools around the country are sharing information about their schools. It reassures the Ministry of Education that the state-integrated Waldorf schools they are funding are well worth their money. It might also reassure prospective parents who worry that our pedagogy of an 'unhurried childhood' could lead to poorer educational outcomes - which is clearly not the case!





... TOWARDS FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT

On the other hand, there is a lot more to learning and achievement than that. For some years now we (teachers, school leaders & board members) have been wondering how we can better capture individual progress in a way that also informs how teachers can plan ahead to meet the needs of individual students that they know so well, in a much more wholesome way than could ever be captured by tests or benchmarks.

This is, in fact, a contemporary version of what was envisaged when the first Waldorf School was founded over 100 years ago. *Ka huri whakamuri ka haere whakamua*. Looking back can take us into the future.

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN FOR PARENTS, CAREGIVERS AND WIDER WHĀNAU?

The first change for parents & caregivers is timing. Instead of reporting to whānau in the middle and end of the year, teachers will report in Terms 1 and 3. This allows changes to their teaching practice to be made within the school year, rather than trying to re-start after a long summer break.

The second change is that there is a larger face-to-face component to reporting: this will be in the form of two annual Partnership Hui, to which parents and wider whānau will be invited in Term 1 and Term 3. The hui be followed up by a brief written summary. These summaries form part of a progress report into which teachers and whānau have input.

At the end of the year, whānau will still receive an year report that gives an overview over the content covered over the year and over the journey of the class.

This is it in a nutshell - though of course there is a lot more to it than meets the eye, particularly in terms of the changes teachers are making. But we are very excited about the potential this has for teacher practice, and for making the relationships between school and whānau really meaningful for the benefit for the children.

So, watch that space as we navigate new territory together!

**Ngā mihi nā
Kerstin Wagner**

- KĀPITI WALDORF TRUST -

The school is looking for 2 or 3 parents who are interested, and might even be able to bring prior experience, to apply for grants for the kindergarten and school, on behalf of the Kapiti Waldorf Trust.

The recent decline in government funding and increased costs of living for families, which led to an overall reduced pledge of donations for 2023. has impacted on the financial situation of the Kapiti

Waldorf Trust. As most of you will know, the Trust supports the school and kindergarten to deliver the Waldorf education - from buildings and grounds to teaching staff. To enable us to start new and complete existing projects at the school and kindergarten, we really need to increase the Trust income. Grants are an excellent way of achieving this!

If you think that you could help, please contact the chair of the Kapiti Waldorf Trust, Joannes Boele van Hensbroek via joannesboele@gmail.com

- COMMUNITY PĀNUI -

- Juicies Fundraiser for class 4 - This Friday - 3pm -

At 3pm this Friday (10 Feb) Class 4 parents will be selling juices for \$2 each. We will be selling juicies outside the school office. We are fundraising for our class trip. Thanks in advance for your support :)

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



Hot Lunches – shout out for parent volunteers

We are reaching out to the community for volunteers to help with the provision of hot lunches once a week to our school children.

This entails someone to be a coordinator, and a team of 2-3 others to help with shopping, preparation, cooking and serving

The menu in the past has been simple – vegetarian nachos, baked potatoes with a topping, samosas – all served with seasonal fresh salad ingredients from the school garden.

If you would like to help and be involved with our school community for a couple of hours a week, here is your opportunity!

Please come and see Tonia or Cat in the office, or email finance@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.



- OFFICE NOTICES -

School Policy Review

UPDATE UPDATE UPDATE

In 2023, we will review various policies throughout the year. The main, overarching policy will be reviewed at the end of the year.

In Term 1, the policies being reviewed are

- Legislation and Administration Policy
- Student Attendance
- Enrolment
- Privacy
- Official Information Requests
- Dress code

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**.

- 2023 DATES -

Term 1

Tuesday 31 January - Thursday 6 April

Thu 9 Feb - **Class 4 Whānau Hui** 6-7pm

Mon 13 Feb - **Information Afternoon for prospective enrollments** - 3.30pm

Thu 16 Feb - **Class 7 Whānau Hui** 7-8pm

Thu 16 Feb - **Public Meeting of the Te Rā School Board**

Mon 20 Feb - **Class 1 Whānau Hui** 6 - 7pm

Tue 21 Feb - **Class 3 Whānau Hui** 6 - 7pm

Wed 22 Feb - **Class 5 Whānau Hui** 7 - 8pm

Tue 21 Feb - **Kindergarten whānau hui** 6.30 - 8.30pm

Fri 24 Feb - **Te Rōpū Tautoko i te Kaupapa Māori** 3-4pm

Mon 27 Feb - **Class 6 Whānau Hui** 6.30 - 8pm

Thu 16 Mar - **Public Meeting of the Te Rā School Board**

Mon 20 Mar - **Information Afternoon for prospective enrollments** - 3.30pm

Fri 24 Mar - **Te Rōpū Tautoko i te Kaupapa Māori** 3-4pm



Term 2

Monday 24 April - Friday 30 June

Mon 24 Apr - **MOE Teacher's Only Day** - No school

Mon 24 Apr - **Kindergarten first day back**

Tue 25 Apr - **Anzac Day** - Public holiday

Wed 26 Apr - **Student's first day back at school**

Mon 8 May - **Information Afternoon for prospective enrollments**

Mon 5 Jun - **King's Birthday**

Tue 6 Jun - **Teacher's Only Day**

Mon 12 Jun - **Information Afternoon for prospective enrollments**

Term 3

Monday 17 July - Friday 22 September

Term 4

Monday 9 October - Thursday 14 December



- 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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