

KIA MANAWANUI

Te Rāwhiti & Te Rā Pānui ----- 1 March 2023

MESSAGE TO OUR COMMUNITY

He taonga rongonui te aroha ki te tangata - Goodwill towards others is a precious treasure.

Amidst the joyful and happy times late summer days are offering us here on the Kāpiti Coast, our thoughts are with those affected by the floods caused by the cyclone Gabrielle in other parts of our country. Our thoughts are with those who lost houses, belongings, jobs, livelihoods and lives, and also with those of us here who are affected indirectly, with loved ones in the areas. We have heard from most of the Waldorf schools and kindergartens in the affected regions, and most seem to be able to operate with as much normality as possible, given the circumstances. As parents and as educators we all know that when life is turbulent, the rhythms and routines of kindergarten and school provide stability and reassurance. We know that any of our colleagues who themselves are impacted by the cyclone will do what teachers and support staff always do in times of crisis: leave personal worries at the school gate and focus on the children in front of them.



Here at Te Rāwhiti and Te Rā are blessed with a community that supports others, and each other. In the wake of Cyclone Gabrielle, communities like ours are digging deep into their own resources - material and otherwise - and of course it is also on us to do our bit for them, as best we can.

At this point, everyone is aware that donations of money are the best form of support. Affected communities can use your donations on their priorities, which will be different in different areas. If you have not yet had a chance to give, or wish to give again, [this link here](#) has details for places accepting donations for those affected by the cyclone.

Habits, good practices and a friendly request ...

Last Thursday morning, we had 32 children late for school last Thursday morning, and another 15 who arrived in the first 10 minutes after the bell and narrowly avoided the late slip. That's almost a third of our school roll. Fortunately, that's not usually the picture and perhaps a "record" of sorts.



Arriving late and in a rush is never great for anyone, let alone a child (or teen) who wants to catch up with friends before school, and perhaps fit in a game or two. It takes a whole family effort to make it possible that school children arrive with enough time for that, between 8.30 and 8.45, which gives them at least 10 minutes before the bell.

On the other hand, if you are in a classic morning rush occasionally and it would cause major stress to make it in time - it's absolutely fine to be late sometimes, of course. Just not as a rule - we would not want a child think that school is something where it doesn't matter whether you are on time or not.

You child's class teacher will be ever so grateful to start the day with a full morning circle rather than a small pond that is slowly filling up as children trickle in one by one.

Te Rōpū Tautoko i te Kaupapa Māori

The first hui was held last Friday afternoon and what a fantastic turnout! We are very excited to know that so many of our whānau, ahakoa nō hea, Māori me Tauwiwi, are wishing to support kindergarten and school on this journey. Ka rawe!

If you would like to find out more, please contact Rongo, Amanda and/or Livi, or leave your details with Cat in the office and someone will get back to you.

There will be another hui on Friday 24 March (also 3-4pm) - and yes, there will be waiata again! More information will be sent out closer to the time.

Arohanui na

Kerstin Wagner (Te Rā School Tumuaki) & Amanda Bradley (Te Rāwhiti Kindergarten Kaiārahi)

- PLAYGROUP PĀNUI -

In playgroup news this term ...

Playgroup has had a lovely start to the term, where we have had the pleasure of welcoming some new families. There are 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 are loaded for 2023

The Special Character Donations and Disbursement Donations have been loaded to Kindo for 2023.

If you have any concerns about the amounts loaded, please feel free to pop in and see me in the office. I am also available to assist with using Kindo between 9.00 and 10.00 am each morning, or between 2.00 pm and 3.00 pm each afternoon.

On our website we have information on how to use Kindo. Click [here](#) to see this information.

If you are new to the school and kindergarten and do not have a Kindo login, please click [here](#) to join. You will need to use the email address that you have given the school for Kindo. Our student management system and Kindo are connected for caregiver emails.



- KINDERGARTEN PĀNUI -

We had a wonderful whānau hui for kindergarten families on Tuesday night, thank you to everyone who made it. Families joined us for a meeting in the hall to talk about the fair and what that will look like for our kindergarten whānau this year. Lana, our playgroup facilitator and fair coordinator, gave us an inspiring talk about the magic and wonder that we create at the fair for all our existing and future families, many families touched on their first memories of Te Rāwhiti Kindergarten fondly starting at the fair.

We followed this by joining our individual kindergarten groups for a snapshot of the classes and delicious shared kai. Everyone had a chance to introduce themselves old and new parents alike. Some classes touched on the learning and skills that children develop through being part of story-telling in the



classroom, whether that's through listening to their teacher sharing a story or telling one themselves to their class mates.

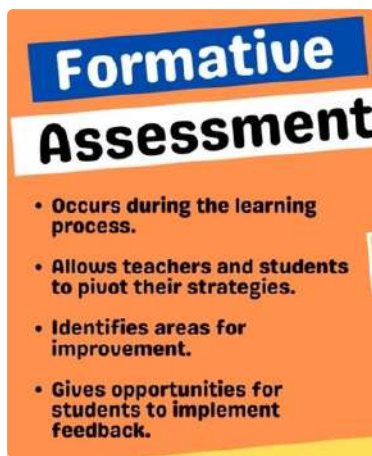
If your child is sick please let your kindergarten teacher know. Please remember with the weather being changeable to include a spare set of clothes and wet weather gear in their bags.

- SCHOOL PĀNUI -

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

Over the last years, starting with the curriculum area of mathematics, 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 made a decision to shift to a new way of reporting student achievement to parents. As a 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.



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.

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

Instead of reporting to whānau in the middle and end of the year, teachers will meet to discuss learning and wellbeing with whānau of their students in Terms 1 and 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.

For Term 1, Teachers will shortly send out schedules to book individual Partnership Hui with parents/caregivers (and any whānau members you would like to bring) on the following days:

Class 7 only

Thursday 9 March between 11.15am and 4pm

Classes 1-6

Wednesday 15 March - from 12.30pm (session times will vary between classes)

Wednesday 22 March - from 12.30 pm (session times will vary between classes)

- **Please note that on these two Wednesdays, normal lessons will finish at midday and students from Class 1-6 can be picked up.** If this is not possible, specialist teachers, support staff and Class 7 students will team up to supervise students who cannot go home during this time.
- School is as per usual timetable on 9 March.
- Kindergarten sessions are not affected at all on either day.

At the end of the year, whānau will receive an year report by email.

Ngā mihi nā
Kerstin Wagner

Harvest Fair - 2nd of April 2023

Harvest Fair plans are underway and we are getting excited. Parent Liaisons will be in touch in the coming weeks with requests to help with the lead up to the fair, please help out where you can.



Items that we are particularly looking for at present...

Lemons for our lemonade.

Treasures for our treasure bags... this includes, special shells, sea glass etc.

Looking for sewers... We need a few more treasure bags.

If you are interested in helping or being part of the core group, please let us know
tashrobertsonmidwife@gmail.com/0212380731



New to the Harvest Fair???? What you need to know....

The fair is our main fundraiser of the year - an essential boost to kindergarten and school budget! It is also a very special day full of celebration, whānau, food, stalls, music, fun and community!

For some whānau this year might be the first time being actively involved with the Harvest Fair. Here is some more information:

- All adults are **rostered onto a stall** for 2 hours on the day of the fair (Sunday 2 April)
- Parents also need to help with part of the **set up on the day before the fair** (Saturday).
- If you have 'extra' adults who would like to help on the day (wider whānau welcome!!!) please let Tash know at enrolments@tera.school.nz

- **Craft packs** available from the office, for adults to stitch, for the craft stall - small felt animals, mostly.

- **School whānau** will be working with their class liaison fair rep to prepare their **class stall**. You will also get a cake/slice/biscuit/bread box to fill for the Kai Stall.

- **Kindergarten whānau** will be working with their class liaison fair rep to prepare their class stall as well as making biscuits, or pocket lady crafts, and setting up on the day.

Behind the scenes is a Core Fair Group who have been working hard to get this fair up and running. **If you want to be part of this team, we'd love you to get in touch!!! Please email Tash at enrolments@tera.school.nz** or pop into the office for a quick chat.

Thank you for your help with making this fair a success. We appreciate your time and support.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UPDATE

When Cyclone Gabrielle was approaching Auckland a few weeks ago, the administration team met to review our emergency management plan.

We have taken the opportunity to update our processes and have full plans in place for the following circumstances:

1. Carpark/pedestrian egress flooding - traffic and pedestrian management plan
2. North or South road closures - plan in place if roads are closed north and south. Communication will come direct from the office to families affected. Food is available on site for children and there is a plan in place for overnight stay if required.
3. Full Evacuation - if a full evacuation is required, we will move to Raumati South School. The processes around this have been well thought through to ensure clear communication to teachers and support staff, and to ensure the children stay calm and safe.

While it is important to have a plan, it is one of those things that hopefully we never have to use. Our likely scenario is flooding in our carpark due to abnormal rainfall, with traffic management and staggered pickups if required.

The office will use SchoolApp notifications and email to communicate any emergency information. **If you do not have a smart phone, please let the office know** so we can contact you in a different way.

Please download and/or update your child's class groups now. Search for SchoolAppsNZ, once downloaded added Te Ra School. This is for School and Kindergarten families.

If you would like to view a copy of our processes, they can be viewed in the office. As they are a Health and Safety document, we will not be making changes unless agreed by teachers and we feel it is an improvement to ensure the well being of the children.

Rhonda, Executive Officer

Update from Kapiti Waldorf Trust

The hall upgrade project has started. We are replacing the existing rotten deck down the side of the hall; and a large new deck will be built in front of the hall, with new roof structures and seating areas. There will be new double doors installed off the new front deck, and double internal doors will be installed from the foyer into the hall. This will create a wonderful and welcoming entrance to our lovely hall.

Once the building works have finished, we will be creating new gardens and paths to create a lovely entrance point to our school and hall.

The plans for this work are on the window in the school office.



- COMMUNITY PĀNUI -

CLASS 7 CAMP FUNDRAISING

A BIG THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT SO FAR!
WE HAVE A FEW MORE OFFERINGS BEFORE CAMP.

HOT LUNCH

MARCH 1ST (WEDNESDAY)
BEAN NACHOS + SALAD \$5

MARCH 3RD (FRIDAY)
SAUSAGE SIZZLE \$3 / VEG SAUSAGE \$4

PRE-ORDER ESSENTIAL BY TUES+ THURS 7PM: PLEASE SEND ORDER
TO EMMALEAVENS@YAHOO.COM (INCLUDE CHILD NAME + CLASS)

JUICIES \$2

FEBRUARY 24TH (FRIDAY AT 3PM)

BOTH
OPTIONS
ARE GF

Please email your orders to: emmaleavens@yahoo.com

Cash on the day for payment please. Cash to be paid to the lunch makers, not to the office.

Enrolments for Class 1 - 2027/2028

If you have a child born in 2020 of 2021 (who is a sibling of a currently enrolled student) that you would like to enrol to start in Class 1 2027 and 2028, 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 and Class 1 2028.

If your 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.

Carpooling: calling all Waikanae and Ōtaki whanau

If you are interested in sharing travel to take children to and from school?

Are you interested in having other families phone numbers?

This could be for regular trips, occasional trips, emergencies, etc. I'm interested to see if we could share phone numbers and maybe make some connections. No pressure.

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

For Sale - Koha for Fundraising Group

We have a few items for sale .

There is a large classroom shelf that is about 3 meters long.

Also a shelf.

Please see Cat in the office if you are interested.

SHORT TERM RENTAL

SHORT TERM RENTAL in Raumati South, available end of May 2023:

4-5 bedroom, modern, architecturally designed house, right by the beach on The Esplanade. Contact Emma - emmaleavens@yahoo.com 0220245303.

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)

We are spending a lot of time each morning trying to contact parents for absent children. We would appreciate your assistance in notifying the school by one of the following means:

1. Absence loaded through SchoolApps; or
2. Text the school cellphone number - 021 295 8618
3. Ring the school on 04 299 0812, choose option 2

We would appreciate you doing one of these options if your child is going to be late to school because of an appointment.

If you are advising of an absence, to enable us to code the absence correctly, please provide the reason for the absentee.

- 2023 DATES -

Term 1

Tuesday 31 January - Thursday 6 April

Wed 1 Mar - **Class 3 Whānau Hui** 6 - 7pm

Sat 11 Mar - **Working Bee for the Fair** 9am - 4pm

Wed 15 Mar - **Partnership Hui Classes 1-6** (Day 1 of 2) - normal lessons end midday

Wed 22 Mar - **Partnership Hui Classes 1-6** (Day 2 of 2) - normal lessons end midday

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

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

Thu 30 Mar - **Public Meeting of the Te Rā School Board**

Sat 1 Apr - **Fair set up** 9am - 4pm

Sun 2 Apr - **Harvest fair** 11am - 3pm



Mon 3 Apr - **School and Kindergarten open (normal hours)**

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

Mon 23 Oct - Labour Day



- NOTICES -



Te Rā School App

Download the SchoolAppsNZ to receive the following:

- Important urgent notices
- Links to newsletters
- Class notices
- Emergency notices in case of weather events, or other emergency


Absences can be notified by the school app as well. If your child is sick or away, simply go onto the SchoolAppsNZ, click ABSENTEE, Choose to send an EMAIL, fill in the information and submit.

If you have a child in a kindergarten class, please notify the absence of your child direct to your kindy teacher.



Contact Us

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