



11 June 2021

Kia Ora Whānau,

Reporting and Educa

Thank you to those who took time to complete feedback on reporting about learning at Waitati School. It was much appreciated. Staff and BOT are reviewing this.

In the meantime, thank you to those who have given Educa a go. The results show that the majority of you are enjoying having access to your child's learning as it happens. Change takes time, new things take adjusting to, but before you know it, you use it like an expert. Educa requires some effort on your part, to read the stories in order to get full benefit. We would love you to add comments. Some of you are writing back, sharing adventures in the holidays or a piece of learning from home. Educa is what we have chosen (at the moment), as our main way to share learning with you at Waitati School.

Educa links in with our Online Student Management System called Edge. Educa embraces a way of sharing learning information called Narrative Assessment or Learning Stories. Some of you may have heard the word Learning Portfolio? A collection of learning, up to date, and collected over time, that shows what your child can do (knowledge) and how they learn (dispositions). Portfolios differ from traditional reports which provide a snapshot of progress, but may be out of date by the time you read them or show learning in a narrow way often disconnected to the contexts of their use.

“Perspectives on empowerment are culturally located, hence Kaiako need to seek the input of children and their parents and whanau when designing a local curriculum”. (Learning Stories in Practice by Carr, Lee, 2019)

The beautiful thing about narrative assessment is that it shows more than a score. It shows the moment of learning, the why of the learning, the how and the what. As Educators, we love writing these stories, because they help us notice what is happening. We see your child. We stop and observe, we might take a photo or video, but we stop and then we think about your child. We consider what the learning shows. It is strengths based and celebrates the moment, the progress and the dispositions. It more than often shows your child shining.

Can I just remind you that learning isn't linear. In New Zealand, we don't have to learn a Year 1's worth of knowledge or a Year 7's worth of knowledge. Children get to build on their learning throughout their schooling. Sometimes, they spend longer at one stage than another, sometimes they circle backwards and re-visit concepts and sometimes, they zoom ahead, making accelerated progress. Much of this journey is underpinned by their learner identity. How do they see themselves as learners? What dispositions or learning powers do they have to use to learn with? At Waitati, we have feathers, which are values, but also dispositions - powers of learning. It is these dispositions that power learning.

To support the move to Educa, we are preparing a more traditional report to supplement the new Educa reporting. It will show you the progress your child has made over the last half of the year and where your child is learning currently in reading, writing and maths providing a comparison to the New Zealand Curriculum expectations. Basically children have two years to work through each curriculum level.

What Educa helps with is providing you with actual learning so you can get involved, help out with the learning that needs some extra help, follow up on interests and enjoy learning with your child. We are working towards true partnership.

Please let me know if you would like some support for getting online.

Building Updates

- Great News, our building upgrade has been given the final approval for the unexpected costs application. I will keep you posted as to the start date of the building work.
- The Board has approved a new Heat Pump for Kapuka.
- We have had a new upgrade to our internet systems. Network 4 Learning has completed the upgrade programme and we are really pleased as to the speed and access to the internet we are now experiencing.

Staffing News

Sally Beckett, our lovely Garden Educator who works half a day a week is finishing up at the end of this term. Sally is a great loss to us as she gives so much to our garden and school. We are discussing options for replacing Sally next week.

Board of Trustees

The results from the latest Board Elections are as follows;

Jo Clark. 45

Mark Sanford. 40.

Matthew McCormack 30.

Elected were Jo Clark and Mark Sanford.

Claire Reid resigned effective last month. We have seconded Matthew McCormack onto the Board.

Tara's Out and About



This week I visited Oropi School in Tauranga. This is a country school with similar values and educational aspirations as Waitati. I found it valuable to see their buildings, talk with their Principal about systems and look at their play and project based learning.

They had a wonderful 'shed' where all the carpentry and tinkering occurs. They are a Garden to Table school as well and prepare a meal for the whole school once a week from their garden.

Then I attended a meeting in Wellington setting up a new support group for Rural Principals.

Term Two Calendar Our web calendar also has updates www.waitati.wordpress.com

Week 7

Monday 14th June

Swimming lessons at Moana Pool. 1pm - 2pm. Leave school 12.15 return by 2.40

Tuesday 15th June

Brainwave Trust presents 'Nurture Our Tamariki' at Waitati School. 7.30pm

Week 8

Monday 21st June

Swimming lessons at Moana Pool. 1pm - 2pm. Leave school 12.15 return by 2.40
BOT Hui

Tuesday 22nd June

Year 7 and 8 combined rural schools sports day at the Edgar Centre

Wednesday 23rd June

Report uploaded to Educa. Reading, Writing and Math progress. If you would like a hard copy please let us know and we will print one out for you.

Friday 25th June

Passion Projects

Saturday 26th

Book Fair in the Playcentre building. 11am - 2pm (fundraising books for school)

Sunday 27th

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Week 9

Monday 28th June

Swimming lessons at Moana Pool. 1pm - 2pm. Leave school 12.15 return by 2.40
Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences 3pm - 7pm

Tuesday 29th June

Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences 1pm - 5pm

Wednesday 30th June

Goldilocks 'ala Mozart at Waitati Hall 10.30am -12am Opera Otago

Friday 2nd July

Teachers Only Day - **NO SCHOOL**

Week 10

Monday 5th July

Swimming lessons at Moana Pool. 1pm - 2pm. Leave school 12.15 return by 2.40

Final Session for the year

Friday 9th July

Passion Projects

Final Assembly for the Term - 2pm @

July Holidays Start

Term 3 Week 1

Monday 26th July

Term 3 Starts at 9am

Friday 30th July

Puaka Matariki Lantern Parade at the Hall 6pm Bring a Plate to share then Parade.

EDUCA

I would like to invite you to spend some time on Educa looking at your child's Portfolio. I will send out new invitations to anyone who is yet to accept.

TEINA

Read and Feed

Mapounui

11/06/2021 by Tara O'Neill

[Edit](#) [More](#)

Being 5 is tough and it's even tougher when we start school and everything is much more structured. We noticed by 10am our tamariki were getting tired and needed a break. So "Read and Feed" was invented, where for ten minutes brain food is served along with a book. The initiative has been a hit and has carried our children well through the morning.

Here's a picture of the Mopanui children enjoying some brain food. Written by Stacey Kennedy, Teacher Aide Mapounui.



Hut building and Fire lighting

Huataea Kaka

11/06/2021 by Tara O'Neill

[Edit](#) [More](#)



Today you started a new Passion Project. You were so excited. I asked you to e noho (sit down) while we explained the boundaries of where you could build a hut. I talked about the tools and Jessica our relieving teacher showed how the the tools are used correctly.

The rules were as follows.

1. Stay in the boundary
2. If you use a tool, use it for what it is designed for.
3. You can use any hut but you must not destroy it, only add to it.
4. Support your team.
5. Have fun.

Then we walked around the boundary and talked about the huts that were there and how you could add to them. You got into teams. I handed out a plans notebook for you to write your teams name and some ideas of your hut.

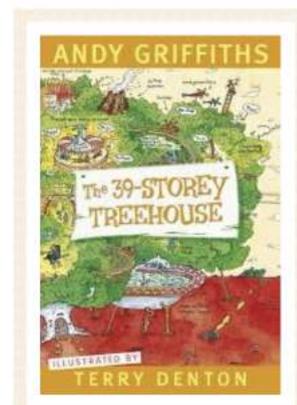
Then you were off working together to build a hut.

After morning tea, Jessica read the first few chapters of 39 Story Treehouse. By Andy Griffiths.

More hut building followed. Jessica and Stacey supported you to build some more huts.

After Lunch, was probably the most exciting part of the day. You helped me to collect some water and some wood. Then you got some stones and we made a ring to put the fire in. I explained the fire setting rules.

1. Stay out of the inner circle.
2. Walk around fires.
3. Wear shoes.
4. Have fun.



I talked about how to set a fire up.

1. Scrunch paper up
2. Add some dry kindling
3. Light the fire.

Koa lite the fire up.

You noticed some sap coming out of the wood as it burned. We discussed what sap was and how it represented life. Then you went and found a stick for cooking on, most of you used green bamboo to put the marshmallow on. Then we talked about how to cook a marshmallow. You don't want to cook it over the flames as it will only turn black from soot. Instead, wait for the fire to form embers and then cook away.

The marshmallows were delicious.



Tuakana



Sally Garden Co-ordinator working with a group of ākonga from Mihiwaka.

Passion Project Exhibition - Friday 28th May



Thank you to the parents who were able to come to this exhibition. Part of the day the children were choosing their new Passion projects. Mark is giving a demonstration where the children have to guess which balloon reaches the ceiling first. Mark is taking a Science Passion Project during the next round of Passion.



Some of the lovely pottery pieces and Oamaru Stone Carving, created over the last Passion Project. This round, we will be using our very own Kiln. Also a wonderful display from Bex, who along with Mark took the Good to Great Passion. Charlie showing off some of the moves.

NOTICES



Circle the date 15th June 7.30pm Waitati School. Wild Things are excited to announce in conjunction with the Brain Waves Trust and Waitati School a free 2 hr information night by Dr Rob Thomson called Nurture our Tamariki. Designed to equip whānau with the knowledge to help their children reach their full potential. www.brainwave.org.nz. Please R.S.V.P Christine or Tara.