



Light the mind, Fire the heart, Engage the whānau

Newsletter March 4th 2022

Kia Ora whānau,

Renovation of Learning Spaces

The Mapounui learning space has been completed and the Year 6-8's moved in on Wednesday. All teachers and students are in the correct space. We look forward to using our new spaces together. Thank you for being so patient and understanding while we waited for the building to be completed. Thank you to our teachers, it is pretty disconcerting not having a classroom to teach from and they continue to work tirelessly to sort resources, clean spaces and adapt. A huge thank you to Seraya for cleaning the learning spaces after the builders left. Lastly, thank you to our amazing ākonga for their patience and resilience despite all the changes.

The glass sliding door between Huatea and Mapounui will take time to get used to. Why did we put a big glass door between two classrooms? Flexibility is the name of the game.

1. So we can choose how big to make a space eg. open up the room for assemblies or close it for learning. 2. The space can be changed quickly to suit our learning needs, e.g. small groups, or whole class, individual or in pairs. 3. Work together, side by side, teachers and children working in different ways that suit them. Some rooms for quiet learning, others for discussion. If you have an opportunity to pop in, then please do (with a mask on) and see for yourself the wonderful open feeling, mixed with some smaller quiet spaces.



Mapounui Glass Door



Cloak Bay



Reading Nook



Main Space looking towards the kitchen



Sink Area



Mapounui looking towards the kitchen



Mapounui looking towards the entrance

COVID-19

Thanks for hanging in there and dodging the virus. If/When it does eventually make its way to Waitati, we are prepared. If you do need to isolate for 10 days the Year 3-8s have learning on their ChromeBooks. The Years 1-2s have hard packs of learning at home waiting and we will use google meet to talk with them. The teachers will send you an email with the link. Thank you for encouraging your children to [wear masks](#). Here is a [video clip on caring for your child with COVID](#).

Learning Conferences

Please give the teachers another couple of weeks to settle into their new classrooms, before they contact you to set a time for a conversation about your child's learning. They will introduce themselves, ask about your child's interests and then suggest some goals to work on together for learning. They will do this by phoning, or if you prefer face to face in the class. It should be a 10 min chat. If you need longer then another meeting can be booked in. Our goal is to complete these by the end of Term 1. These goals will then be added to Educa and linked to learning.

Teacher's Hours

Together as a staff, we have agreed on some reasonable hours that teachers can be contacted. We would like to keep most contact within 8.30am - 4.30pm. If you do contact teachers via email, please allow 24 hours for a reply. If you want to catch up with teachers, then a 10 minute chat after school is fine, but if you need longer, then please email and book a time. If you work during these hours, then we can arrange an early morning or an evening time to meet.

Educa

We share learning at Waitati School on a private app called Educa. I will run a workshop if you would like support on how it works. Please help by writing some comments. You could say what you like about your child's learning, you could offer some feedback or you could simply write, "thanks for sharing." When you do leave a comment, you do so as a significant audience. Remember getting a letter when you were younger, children love hearing feedback, the thought of someone reading their learning and enjoying it, gives them motivation.

Thank You

Thank you to Brad for trimming our trees by the pre-school and for Charlotte and Simone for lugging branches round to the pile. If anyone has a branch chipper, we now have a very large pile of branches that need to be made into mulch.

Year 7 and 8 Programme Parent Hui

Monday 7th March at 6pm. This will be held on zoom. Come and discuss the vision for the Year 7-8 programme. We would love to hear your ideas. Link sent via email.

Walk 'n' Wheel Week

Walk 'n' Wheel to School Week is coming up from Monday 7 until Friday 11 March 2022. Walking or wheeling to school can contribute to daily activity, help reduce the traffic congestion at the school gate and help reduce your carbon footprint. Help us support this fantastic event by supporting your child/children to walk or wheel even if it's only once during the week. The more they walk or wheel during the week, the more chances they have of winning a spot prize including Sports Depot and Megazone vouchers. Live too far away, then parking a block or two away is a perfect option for your family. You can win prizes by snapping a photo of you walking with your child/children, then posting on the Walk 'n' Wheel event on the Sport Otago Facebook page with the hashtag #walknwheeldaydunedin2022. Help us spread the word and provide a safe walking/wheeling environment for our children to get to school as there are great prizes up for grabs!

Walking from the Library

We will be meeting at the Waitati Library at 8.30am to walk with the children to school. Please join us. Wednesday is dress up day.

Cycle skills training Day for Year 6-8. All Year 6-8 students bring your bikes to school with a helmet (no helmet no biking). The Bikes in School team will come and take you for biking skills sessions on Wednesday 9th March. Please make sure your bikes are working with brakes. You need closed shoes for riding. If you don't have a bike, the team can bring one to borrow. See Kat or Jess for more details.

Tara O'Neill

BOARD OF TRUSTEES LEADERSHIP

Messages from our new Co-Chairs Katie Peppercorn & Jo Clark



Hello! A few of you may know me from the playground as Finley and Emilys' Mum or perhaps I have served you some food or a beer at the Blueskin Gallery (my parents' project). Perhaps you have danced at one of my music festivals or we have chilled by a fire at a party. Perhaps you have never met me, which is most likely as my children have now outgrown the school and many, many new families have joined our school since we did. At the school Board of Trustees meeting last week, I became a Co-Chair of the Board, as Antony Deaker passed the baton. Ant has been on the BoT for 12 years and Chair for the last 7, and has provided our Principal (s) and Board with excellent oversight and leadership, as well as providing epic speeches at school functions - Thankyou Ant!

Did you know there is a Board (group of 5 parents plus one teacher) that helps look after the school? We are the employer of the school Principal and we support her to best manage the school. We meet twice a term to discuss things like (i) the children's educational progress (ii) keeping the playground safe (iii) agreeing on the budget for the year (iv) agreeing on the school charter and vision (v) checking and updating policies and procedures (vi) improving the buildings and much more.

A bit (more) about me - for almost 20 years I have worked as a biochemist / molecular neuroscientist at the University, I have also just completed 4 years of PhD study and recently passed (woo hoo!). It was really hard, but it was a great challenge. I'm also a Jungle DJ and organise events usually involving loud music! I have now lived in Waitati for 10 years and Seacliff for 10 years before that and I'm originally from the UK.

If you see me about, please say hello, I like to think of myself as approachable and friendly! I don't mind if you want to praise :) or moan about things... I would listen and then try to help you to navigate the system to sort it out. I care about the school and want children and parents and teachers to be happy here.



Kia ora koutou, I'm Mum to Freda (Yr 5) and Ada (Yr 3) and I joined the BoT in 2021. I grew up on a farm locally and attended Waitati School, so it is wonderful for my girls to be able to repeat the experience. Our whānau loves so much about Waitati School which is one of the reasons I joined the BoT - to be able to support the school to continue to thrive. I'm lucky enough to work part-time, as a Clinical Psychologist in private practice and at the University. When not doing this or hanging out with our girls (i.e. chauffeuring), the outdoors is my passion whether it be tramping,

running (slowly), enjoying our local beaches, trying to tame our lifestyle block, or gardening. Stepping into Ant's shoes after such a long and successful period as Chair was a daunting prospect, which is one of the reasons Katie and I decided to share this role. We are grateful for all the hard work and time Ant has contributed to this role over the years and that he has offered to mentor us over the coming months. We've got a great team and have already navigated some challenging situations, not the least preparing for schooling in this ever-changing COVID world. Don't hesitate to chat if you have concerns or questions, or even to step up and join us in the elections later this year ;)

NEWS FROM AROUND THE SCHOOL

Creatives in Schools Programme



We were selected for funding to run a Creatives in Schools programme by the Ministry of Education. This is a big deal and our goal is to produce an installation for the Waitati village.

The project is called Papanekeneke (moving earth). It interweaves these concepts - 1. Turangawaeawe, connectedness. 2. Draft NZ history curriculum, local stories, landmarks and earth. 3. Visual arts, sharing ideas, feelings and stories communicated by their own and others objects and images.

David Milne, a local ceramic artist, teaches each Friday at our Waitati Ceramics studio for Term 1 and 2. Chris Slabbert is the lead- teacher. Chris is heading up this project, as well as studying this half of the year. Children will receive tuition in small groups, as well as learning how to prepare clay, techniques and instruction on firing. Children will also be

involved in forming a creative idea together about 'moving earth'.

Mahi-ā-ringā Opening The Ceramic studio is now open!



Thank you to Elayna and Chloe for helping me video some clips of me lip syncing to the song "Stay" for an online conference I'm involved with. Here is [a link for you to watch](#)

Kiara and Autumn made this tower during lunchtime. They counted all the way to 1500.

Look at that amazing learning space behind them.



Math/Reading/Writing

Our learners are underway with their core subject learning. Math - we are focusing on statistics. Writing - what engaged writers we have at Waitati School. Reading - loads of reading happening and our Phonics programme starts next week.

School Wide Timetable

Block 1 - 9 - 9.30 - Class meeting teaching wellbeing/social and emotional skills

9.30 - 10.40 - Mathematics

Block 2 - 11 - 12. 30 - Literacy

Block 3 -1.30 - 3pm - Play or projects/ sports/ Kapahaka. Curriculum subjects are taught through play or projects.

Every second Friday - Passion Projects

School Hui - Every Monday 10.30 - 10.40 - Setting the value for the week.

Friday 2.30 - 3pm - Feathers given out.

Learning Exhibition - Friday 20th May.

Parent Conferences in Term 1 - Phone call or face to face - setting goals.

Term 2 and Term 4.

Futsal and Swimming

Congratulations to all the teams who have begun the Futsal session. We hear you did really well this week. Thank you to Bec Des Fountain for coaching these teams.

After the disappointment of swimming being cancelled this term, we can now confirm that swimming has been re-booked for Term 2, starting in Week 3.

Apples

Please come and gather apples from the garden. There are loads there to be picked now!

CALENDAR

Term 1

For our online calendar: [Click Here](#)

Week 6

Mon 7 - Fri 11 Mar

Walk and Wheel Week

Tue 08 Mar

Bee Club trip to observe honey being processed.

Wed 09 Mar

No Tech today, Bikes in schools (bring your bike and helmet to school) Year 6-8

Week 7

Thu 17th Mar

Passion Projects

Fri 18th Mar

Teacher's Only Day - SCHOOL CLOSED

Week 8

Mon 21st Mar

Otago Anniversary Day - SCHOOL CLOSED

Week 9

Fri 1 Apr

Passion Project 4

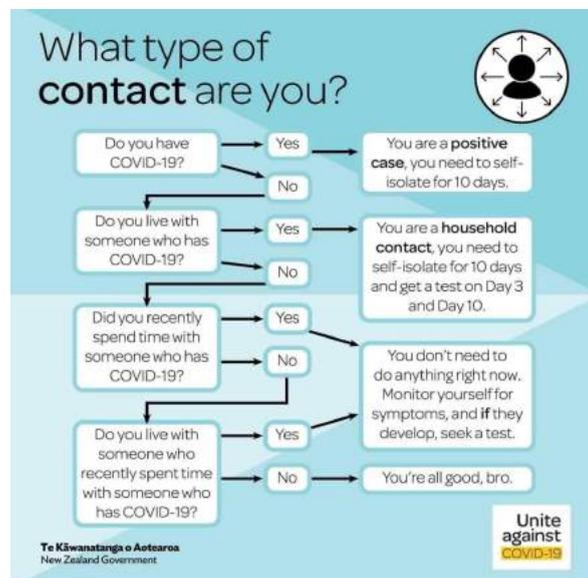
PTA

The PTA's mission is to raise money for the school and also build and strengthen the school community as we do so!

New parents/caregivers are always welcome at our PTA meetings and you can keep in touch with all the happenings on our Waitati PTA Facebook page – please be sure to “Like It”!

Next meeting Thursday 10th at 3.10pm at school.

Please bring children along if it's easier for you.



NOTICES



Blueskin Nurseries & Cafe School Lunch

Please remember to place your orders by midday Tuesday for a Thursday delivery. You can place your order at the cafe and pay there in the usual ways or if you cannot make it to the cafe then you can drop an order form and cash payment into the office and we will pass it on.

This week's menu: Ham & cheese pizza \$3, cheese & tomato pizza \$3, orange & chocolate muffin \$3.50.

Maori Hill Junior Football It's time to think about kids' winter sport! Maori Hill Country (affiliated with the town club) practices in Waitati & plays in the Dunedin Saturday morning competition. Age 5+ Head to the club website maorihilljc.co.nz & register. Make sure to mention you are wanting to play for the Country teams.