



Rata Team

Term 1, 2020 Newsletter



Kia ora whanau and caregivers

Welcome to the Rata team...

with a special welcome to our Year 3s who have moved over from Weld St, our new students and families who have moved to Wadestown School: Naomi, Aila-Mae, Jacob, Edward, Terry and Rosa and our new teachers to the team: Elizabeth Chater and Lydia Harris (soon to be Lydia Hannah).

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide an overview of the team programme for the term and information about upcoming events. Separate information about classroom routines will come home from the classroom teacher.

This year Wadestown School will be focusing on fostering Whanaungatanga: a sense of belonging and caring for each other, throughout the school. In a day-long workshop at the end of last year, staff have identified the following eight attributes, we believe, as being central to developing Whanaungatanga in our students:

- Active listening
- Awareness of others feelings
- Thinking before speaking/acting
- Including others
- Acts of kindness
- Upstanding (don't be a bystander)
- Tolerance of difference
- Owning my own actions (self-awareness)

Every Monday all classes will focus on one of these attributes and the students will discuss and decide what each one means: what it looks and sounds like. At the end of that week, all students will reflect in an age-appropriate manner, on how they have included that attribute in their own behaviour over the week. These reflections will be recorded in a Wadestown Citizenship passport. In Term 1 these attributes will be introduced and from Term 2 on, the attributes will be focused on over a two week period. Each week the Rata team will include the focused attribute in homework sheets so that students can discuss what it means with parents at home.

Inquiry

Our overarching school theme for the year is "Reaching Out" and in Term 1, the Rata's context will be our school pepeha. We want our students to understand how our pepeha connects us to our place and community. We will visit our maunga (mountain), awa (stream) and mona (ocean harbour).

Rata Team dates to remember

- Wed 19 Feb 5.30-6.30pm Rata team Parent Information evening
- Fri 21 Feb 5.00pm 'Sallybration' School Picnic
- Tues 3 Mar 3.30-6.30pm Rose St Parent Teacher conferences
- Thurs 5 Mar 3.30-6.30pm Rose St Parent Teacher conferences
- Tues 24 Mar Rooms 9 & 11 City Gallery visit & workshop
- Thurs 26 Mar Rooms 10 & 12 City Gallery Visit & workshop

Activity Fees Term 1

Mathletics	\$20.00
City Gallery Trip	\$ 7.00
Total:	\$27.00

Reminders

- Sunhats are compulsory this term.
- Please name all uniform items so they can find their way back to the rightful owners.

Bell times are:

- 8.50** hang up bag and be ready for the day.
- 8.55** roll call—first learning block begins.
- 10.40** morning tea
- 11.00** second learning block begins
- 12.30** lunch time
- 12.40** play time
- 1.25** have a drink, toilet, return to class.
- 1.30** third learning block begins
- 3.00** home time

- **Students should not be at school before 8.30am**

If you are collecting or delivering your child to school between 9.00 and 3.00 please sign them in/out at the office.

Our inquiry will culminate with a visit to the City Gallery for a sculpture trail from Civic Square to the lagoon that will discuss the three-dimensional artworks in relation to the surrounding environment. The children will hear the legend of Ngāke and Whataitai, and go on a te reo Māori treasure hunt to find shapes/auaha and symbols/tohu. This will be followed by a 3D art workshop.

Literacy

Reading will be a combination of the following: group instructional reading based on ability, independent reading based on student interests and teacher reading to students. In Term 1 instructional reading will focus on the three reading strategies that readers need to develop, to be able to make inferences: using prior knowledge/making connections, making predictions and visualisation.

Writing this term will focus on teaching editing and crafting skills in the context of describing others, and the places of our school pepeha that we will be visiting.

Maths

In the first four weeks of this term, Maths will centre on Statistics: the children will be learning to gather, present and interpret statistical information in a variety of ways. The focus will then move to place value, addition and subtraction. Basic maths facts will be practised every day. This year we will be making use of the Mathletics programme in class Maths times. Students are welcome to use the basic facts section of Mathletics for additional practice at home if they wish, but it will NOT be part of the set homework.

Physical Education

Co-operative games and small ball skills will be the basis of PE lessons this term, taken by the classroom teachers. On Wednesday afternoons Rata Team have a Sports session that consolidates the skills focus in PE lessons through games. A daily fitness time helps improve the children's fitness level and provides a valuable 'brain break' between subjects in the morning.

The Arts, Te Reo Maori

All children will enjoy the benefits of a weekly kapa haka lesson with Hemi Prime who, as well as teaching songs and actions, will expose the students to te reo Maori in context, which is a great reinforcement of class te reo lessons. In Term 1 class te reo lessons will focus on Ko Au.

Visual Art this term will focus on landscape art, using the places in our pepeha for inspiration and a range of mediums to create artworks of these places.

Music lessons will be taken by each teacher in classes and will focus on following and creating a rhythm and beat.

Homework

Homework in Rata consists of mainly spelling and basic facts. It should not be onerous for your child (or you!) but does provide the perfect opportunity for your child to start developing 'time management' skills to complete their weekly homework. Details of your child's homework programme will be in the 'classroom routines' information that each teacher will send home. Homework will begin next week.

We look forward to a great year ahead in Rata with your children and meeting you all, if not before, at our class information evenings.

Kind Regards

Karen Wood (R9), Joy Henderson (R10), Elizabeth Chater (R11), Lydia Harris (R12), Robyn Grover, Team Leader

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