

Rata Team

Term 1, 2021 Newsletter



Kia ora parents, whānau and caregivers,

Nau mai! We are excited to be back with all of our returning students and to welcome our Year 3s who have made the transition from Weld Street to Rose Street! We'd also like to send out a special welcome to our new students and families who have joined us at Wadestown School. In Room 9 we welcome Olivia Sharma, Mala Munro, Marcus Kruger and James McArthur. In Room 11 we welcome Oliver Kawharu-Wells.

Welcome also to Alexandra "Ali" Clearwater who has joined us as the Room 12 Teacher. Many of you may know Ali from her time at the Weld Street site in Term 4 last year.

This newsletter provides an overview of our team programme for the term and information about upcoming events. Separate information about classroom routines will be made available to you by your classroom teacher.

This year our Wadestown School focus is '**Inclusion and Diversity**'. We have already been working towards learning more about our students' languages, cultures and identities so we can look at how we include and celebrate everyone. Working towards this, students have begun sharing their wonderful **Taonga Troves**. We will continue to foster Whanaungatanga: a sense of belonging and caring for each other. Each week we will explore what the concepts of Whanaungatanga look, sound and feel like, and will include a focus in Homework Books so that students can discuss what it means with parents. At the moment we're exploring 'Active Listening'.

Inquiry

Our school theme for the year is '**The Power of Diversity**'. In Term 1 we will help students face a range of diverse challenges by developing their resilience, problem solving skills, and using a Growth Mindset. On Tuesday afternoons, the team will come together and students will be learning collaboratively as they complete STEAM challenges during our 'Discovery' times. STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths. On Thursday afternoons they will experience different challenges during our science rotations.

The Boy with Wings: Puppetry, Storytelling and Song

Birdlife Productions will be visiting us to put on their show which incorporates puppetry, storytelling and song. We will be watching this in the hall with the Pohutukawa Team. We will then be responding to the show in Literacy, Visual Art, Music and Drama by looking into puppetry and storytelling.

Movin March is coming soon; it is a Wellington Regional Council themed promotion to **encourage active travel to school**. The students have a 10 sticker passport held by the teachers at school and if they walk to school each day (x10) then they earn a "Movin March" reward.

Rata Team dates to remember

- **Tues 23 Feb:** 5.30-6.30pm Rata Team Parent Information evening
- **Tues 2 Mar:** 3.30-6.30pm Rose St Parent Teacher conferences
- **Thurs 4 Mar:** 3.30-6.30pm Rose St Parent Teacher conferences
- **Fri 5 Mar:** School Picnic
- **Weds 10 Mar:** Puppet Show

Activity Fees Term 1

Mathletics	\$21.00
Puppet Show	\$4.00
Total:	\$25.00

Reminders

- Sunhats are compulsory in Term 1 and 4.
- Please name all uniform items so they can find their way back to the rightful owners.

Bell times:

- 8.50:** get ready for the day
- 8.55:** roll call/ first learning block
- 10.40:** morning tea
- 11.00:** second learning block
- 12.30:** lunchtime
- 12.40:** playtime
- 1.25:** toilet and back to class
- 1.30:** third learning block
- 3.00:** home time

☑ **Students are welcome in classrooms from 8.30am. Before then it is valuable organisation time for teachers and they are not available for supervision.**

If you are collecting or delivering your child to school between 9am and 3pm please sign them in/ out at the office.

Literacy

For Oral Language we are encouraging students to share information about themselves and to develop their questioning skills.

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 be able to make inferences: using prior knowledge/ making connections, making predictions and visualisation.

In writing this term we will focus on teaching the process writing, helping students to understand the importance of checking, recrafting and sharing their work. We will explore a variety of writing types and help students to increase their knowledge and skills.

Maths

For the first four weeks students are learning to gather, present and interpret statistical information in a variety of ways. We will also help students increase their basic facts' knowledge over the whole term. From Week 4 we will introduce place value knowledge and move from Statistics to Addition and Subtraction in Week 5. Mathletics will be incorporated into the classroom Maths sessions and students are welcome to use the basic facts section of Mathletics for additional practice at home if they wish.

Physical Education

Co-operative games which help students develop their collaborative skills are the basis of P.E. lessons this term. On Wednesday afternoons we have our Rata Sports sessions. Daily fitness helps improve the children's fitness level as well as providing a valuable Brain Break between subjects in the morning.

Te Reo Maori

In Term 1 we will focus on the unit: Ko Au (I, me, myself). Students will learn to introduce themselves and others in Te Reo. Throughout the year the children have weekly Kapa Haka with our Kaiako Hemi Prime.

The Arts

Visual Art this term will focus on artistic responses to various artists in a range of media. This will include the artwork from the puppet show as well as art from different cultures. Performing Arts (music, drama and dance) will be incorporated into our literacy and inquiry programmes, and will be a bigger focus in Term 2.

Homework

Homework in the Rata Team consists of mainly spelling and basic facts. It should not be onerous and needs to fit around any extracurricular activities as children still need time to play. Homework does provide the perfect opportunity for your child to start developing self-management skills at home, including the completion of tasks and remembering to bring their homework books back to school. Homework will start next week and classroom teachers will share the details of your child's homework programme at the information evenings.

It has been great to have already met so many of you at school and hope to see you at our class information evening. Please feel free to get in touch with us through email and to pop into the classroom before school if your child would like to show you something (Covid levels allowing!).

Kind Regards

Lydia Hannah (R9), Elizabeth Chater - Team Leader (R11), Ali Clearwater (R12) and Robyn Grover (DP Y1-4)

Tuesday 23 February 5.30-6.30pm
Rata Team Parent Information Evening

Teachers will be outlining their class timetable, programme and routines. (Please note that any questions regarding school organisation need to be directed to the Senior Leadership Team, rather than class teachers). We look forward to meeting you all at this evening.

Our 2021 Team



Lydia Hannah:

I have enjoyed teaching Year 3 and 4 at Wadestown School since the beginning of 2020. I have taught in a range of schools in both New Zealand and London and recently came back from the UK after completing my 2 Year working visa. Music and The Performing Arts are particular passions for me and I am co-conducting the Wadestown School Orchestra this year. I am very excited about starting a new year with the Rata Team.

Elizabeth Chater:

I also started my time at Wadestown School at the beginning of last year and enjoy teaching Year 3 and 4. I have been teaching for over 16 years and have taught at different schools including Adventure School in Whitby and Bellevue School in Newlands. I have two teenage daughters, Ellie (19) and Lucy (17). Ellie is starting her second year of university and Lucy is finishing her last year at Wellington Girls' College. I have a range of interests including gardening and writing. I am really excited to be Team Leader this year and am looking forward to starting Discovery Time and science rotations with our Rata students this year.



Alexandra 'Ali' Clearwater:

After having such a wonderful experience last year as a student teacher at the Weld Street site of Wadestown school during my studies, I am happy to officially be a part of the Rata family. I come from a long line of teachers and the gene was definitely passed down to me! My undergraduate degrees in the Performing Arts and Behavioural Psychology have influenced my perspective on learning and teaching. I am particularly passionate about teaching the Performing Arts. So you will surely see me involved in extracurricular activities throughout the year! I look forward to meeting you all and creating memorable learning experiences with the students.