



Wadestown School
Growing and Connecting as Learners

Rata Team
Newsletter
Term 2, 2023



Kia Ora Koutou Parents, Caregivers and Whānau

Nau mai hoki mai ano! Welcome back! It has been great to see everyone again. We are now settled into our new classrooms (pictured below) while the Rata Block is being renovated. As we are in different rooms, each class has been renamed. Room 9 is now Room 8; Room 11 is now Room 7; and Room 12 is now Room 14 (right next to the library which is now in Room 15).



We would like to extend a warm welcome to Ruvheneko Ruvando and her whānau. Ruvheneko has joined Room 7. We would also like to welcome our student teacher Sam Wiltshire. He is working with Room 7 for the first six weeks of Term 2.

This term we are looking further into the new Aotearoa New Zealand Histories Curriculum with our inquiry entitled: **This is Us – Retelling Stories of our Culture and Identity**. We are also looking forward to Book Week, our school cross-country event, and our visits to the Ākau Tangi Sports Centre (previously known as the ASB Sports Centre) for coaching sessions.



Friendship Art in Room 8

Thank you to everyone who offered to accompany us when we visited the Wadestown Community Library last term and The City Gallery this term. We cannot run these trips without you and appreciate your willingness to give up your time to help.



Poppies in Perspective in Room 7

‘This is Us – Retelling Stories of our Culture and Identity’ Inquiry

This term we are investigating **Culture and Identity (Whakapapa me te whanaungatanga)** as part of the Aotearoa New Zealand Histories Curriculum. We will be exploring the diverse histories and experiences of the peoples of Aotearoa New Zealand. Students will inquire into how people in our area have come from a variety of places and how some retain connections to those places. They will begin to understand that colonisation and settlement have been central to Aotearoa New Zealand’s histories for the past 200 years.

- **ANZAC Day:** We have started this term by looking at why ANZAC Day is special, and where the day originated from.
- **Wellington City Gallery:** On Monday 8 May, we visited the City Gallery in Wellington to see the Reuben Paterson Exhibition: *The Only Dream Left* and to take part in a workshop in response to his art. Students were able to create their own artworks inspired by the exhibition, conducting experiments with repetition and reflection, and devising kaleidoscopic patterns to make glittering designs. Thanks again to all the parents who offered us their support on this trip.
- **Family Tree:** We have continued our exploration into culture and identity by asking our students to find out more about their own history with a family tree. We will continue to find out more about our different heritages and to make authentic connections as we explore our histories.
- **Retelling our stories:** We will be looking at how we can retell the stories of our past in a variety of ways including spoken, written, drama and visual art.

STEM (Science) Sessions: Rata will build on the collaborative learning our students started last term. This term we will explore everyday examples of the physical phenomena of light. We are learning to appreciate that scientists ask questions about our world that lead to investigations and that open-mindedness is important because there may be more than one explanation. This links in with our school value ‘Wonder’ (Mīharo).

School Values: We continue to explore and integrate our school values across the curriculum during 2023. GROW stands for: Gratitude (Whakawhetai); Resilience (Manawaroa); Others (Whānaungatanga/ Tuakana-Teina); and Wonder (Mīharo).

Kind Art in Room 14



Literacy

Oral Language: Students will continue to share information about themselves and further develop their questioning skills. They will be sharing their Family Trees as well as information they discover in relation their personal culture and history.

Reading: Instructional lessons, teacher reading, and independent reading based on students' interests are all components of our reading programme. Students use a variety of strategies when reading, and this term we will focus on clarifying/monitoring, questioning, and summarising strategies. We will integrate our inquiry learning into reading as we explore both fiction and nonfiction texts related to Aotearoa New Zealand's diverse history.

Writing: We have begun this term by focusing on crafting and editing our writing. Sentence structure, punctuation, supporting detail and how to create an effective sentence will be an ongoing focus. Students will learn how to add, delete, and change their writing to make it more effective and will continue to regularly publish and share their work with others. We work with the whole class and with individuals, helping them achieve their personal writing goals.

Spelling and Handwriting: We will continue to incorporate spelling and handwriting into our classroom Literacy Programme.

Mathematics

For the first two weeks of Term 2, we have been working on addition and subtraction skills. We will continue to build our students' knowledge of basic facts and place value throughout the term. Problem solving is an essential part of maths, and we endeavour to put the problems into authentic contexts. This week we are moving onto a focus on multiplication and division. We will also look at measurement in the last three weeks of the term. Students are enjoying Mathletics and are welcome to use it at home.

Physical Education: Sports

ASB Sports Coaching Sessions start on Wednesday 31 May and will run for three sessions over the term. The sessions take place at the Ākau Tangi Sports Centre (previously ASB Centre) in Kilbirnie. Students will be coached in floorball, dodgeball and gymnastics. Thanks in advance to the parents who will be giving up their time to go with us. We depend on your help.

Wadestown School Cross Country is on Tuesday 23 May. Thursday 25 May is the postponement date. The students have already been practising for this event.

Running alongside the ASB Sports sessions, we will focus on big ball skills at school.

The Arts

Visual Arts: Students will be developing ideas in their art this term, using a range of tools and materials. They will be using their observation and imagination in response to artwork by different New Zealand artists and looking at how stories are told through art.

Performing Arts

Music: As part of our learning for our Artsplash performance in September, we will begin to introduce and learn some of the songs including "Count on Me" which links into New Zealand Sign Language Week in Week 3, and Six 60's song 'Kia Mau Ki Tō Ūkaipō (Don't Forget Your Roots)' which links into our 'This is Us' inquiry. We will provide you with more information about Artsplash later in the term.

Drama: We will be linking drama into our inquiry as one way to retell the stories of Aotearoa New Zealand.

Te Reo Māori me ngā Tikanga

***Whaowhia te kete mātauranga:** Fill the basket of knowledge.*

We are continuing to extend our knowledge of te ao Māori with the support of Matua Alwyn every second Thursday afternoon and with the support of Matua Hemi who continues to run Kapa Haka. Our students are learning to communicate personal information, such as their name, parents' and grandparents' names, iwi, hapū, mountain, and river, or hometown and place of family origin. Through our Mihimihi, we learn to understand the importance of making connections through whakapapa and our connections to places of importance. We start with our Mihi (greeting groups and individuals appropriately), move to our Pepeha (communicating where we are from), and our Whakapapa (communicating who is in our family). From there

we combine all three into a Mihimihi. As Matariki falls in the next school holidays, we will celebrate it at the beginning of next term.

Reminders

Please ensure your child is wearing footwear that works well for sports activities such as cross-country practices and sports coaching sessions.

Please check that all uniform items are clearly labelled so they can find their way back to the rightful owners.

From 8.30am students are welcome in classrooms. 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 9 am and 3 pm please remember to sign them in/ out at the office.

Covid Precautions

We are continuing to remind our students to wash their hands properly and to use hand sanitiser. We also keep our rooms well ventilated.

Homework: Thank you for all the wonderful support you give to your children at home, reinforcing what they are learning at school. The focus of homework continues to be spelling and basic facts. It would be great if the children can become increasingly more responsible for managing their own homework.

We are all looking forward to another great term of learning!

Rata Team 2023 Classroom Activity Donation - Term 2		
<i>Amount charged to Student Statement</i>		\$100.00
Term 1		
Life Education Booklet	\$6.00	
Term 1 total		\$6.00
Term 2		
Wellington City Art Gallery	\$12.00	
ASB Sports Coaching	\$17.00	
NZ Playhouse	\$5.00	
Book Week Visiting Author	\$2.00	
Term 2 total		\$36.00
Total 2023 Classroom Activity Donation spent to date		\$42.00

Dates to Remember

15-19 May Book Week
19 May Book Character Parade
23 May Cross Country (pp 25 May)
24 May NZ Playhouse
31 May, 7 June, 16 June Sports Coaching Sessions at the Ākau Tangi Sports Centre
2 June Teacher Only Day
5 June King's Birthday

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