



# Wadestown School

*Growing and Connecting as Learners*

## Pohutukawa Team Newsletter Term 3 2023



Kia ora Parents, Caregivers and Whānau

Nau mai, haere mai and welcome to Term Toru (Term 3).

It was wonderful to have such a large group of parents and whānau at our recent Mihi Whakatau at Rose Street. Many parents have commented that it was a very special welcome to Wadestown School and also noted how respectful our students were. Thank you to those of you who joined us.

From the start of this term, a group of the four oldest students from Rūma Tahī (Room 1) have moved over to Rūma Kore (Room 0). Rūma Tahī (Room 1) welcomes the following new entrant tamariki (children) and their whānau: *Runako Ruvando, Tommy Robertson, Billie and Roxy Basher*. It is lots of fun having four sets of twins in Rūma Tahī.

This Pohutukawa Team Newsletter outlines the exciting learning opportunities and events that we have planned for this term.

### Our School GROW Values

Our school 'GROW' values stand for: **G**ratITUDE (Whakawhetai), **R**esilience (Manawaroa), **O**thers (Whānaungatanga) and **W**onder (Mīharo).

Each term there are new opportunities to express these values.

**G**ratITUDE - We are most grateful to some key people that have supported us with our 'Creatives in School' art project: "Ko Ahumairangi te maunga e rū nei taku ngākau, Ahumairangi - the mountain close to my heart!" Foremost we thank the artist Kerala Heap. We also thank Andrew Crutchley for his "labour of love" cutting the shapes of the student's artworks. Once this project is fully completed there will be an invitation coming your way for the "big reveal".

Below: Our "Creatives in School" project in action - Term 2



**Resilience** – students will have the opportunity to develop this when they participate in three back-to-back coaching sessions at Ākau Tangi Sports Centre.

**Others** - when students and parents get involved with whole-school events such as the Matariki Breakfast and the hangi, they get to “mix and mingle” alongside others.

**Wonder** - students will have the opportunity to engage with science and to think/wonder about the many ways that water can change form and substance.

## Curriculum Learning Areas

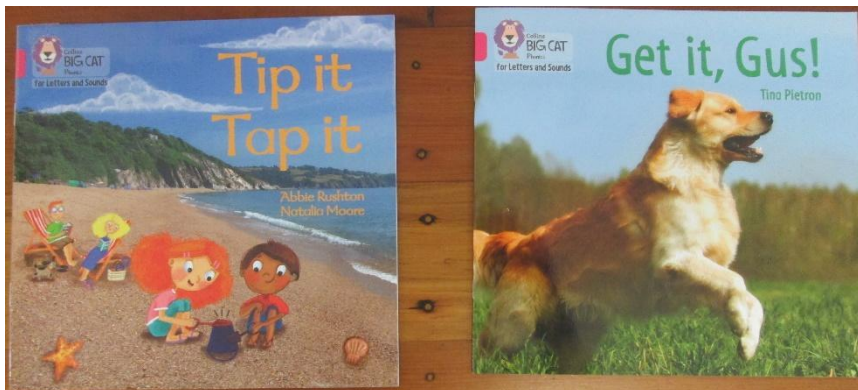
### Literacy

Teachers are aware of the international debate that is taking place around “The Science of Reading”. We recognise the importance of **phonics teaching**; where phonics is taught explicitly, daily and following a scope and sequence. Our school is taking a school-wide approach to the teaching of **Structured Literacy** this year and our teachers are undertaking professional development to ensure that we are being consistent in our approach, across the school. .

In Rūma Tahī the focus is on learning letters and sounds along with building skills in **phonemic awareness**. This involves:

- learning to recognise the initial sounds in words e.g. ‘mouse’ starts with ‘m’ & ‘dog’ starts with ‘d’
- learning to identify the final sound in a word e.g. ‘nest’ the final sound is ‘t’
- being able to break words apart by sounds e.g. ‘bed’- b- e- d & then blend them back into ‘bed’.

In Rūma Toru and Rūma Kore the focus is on learning the **spelling patterns** that they need to know. Some words will be known as “heart words” and these are the words that they cannot sound out phonetically – they just need to learn them off by heart e.g. ‘the’ and ‘come’.



We have purchased some new ‘early’ readers to support phonics learning, they are published by Collins – “BIG CAT” series.

You will note that the new Phonics Plus readers (recently put out by the Ministry of Education) have the phonics focus on the back cover.



## Book Bingo

Junior Book Bingo will be introduced to the Year 2 children who are independent readers. It is a reading challenge designed to encourage the children to read more widely (across both fiction and non-fiction) and becomes part of their independent reading programme in class. There are three levels: Bronze, Silver, and Gold. Mr Piper awards the children with a certificate at the end of each level. Junior Book Bingo is a great introduction to a more advanced Book Bingo programme at Rose Street.

## Numeracy

Mathematics and Matariki will be a combined unit of study starting off the term. Students will learn about symmetry, namely reflection and rotation, and will get to create a rhythmic percussion pattern. Additionally, they will be exposed to the language of chance.

Our focus will then shift to working on addition and subtraction strategies and number knowledge. Number knowledge work will reinforce forward and backward counting sequences of whole numbers; number identification and sequence, and basic addition and subtraction facts. Number strategy work will have our students using a range of counting, grouping, and equal sharing strategies to solve addition and subtraction problems.

## Matariki – an integrated study

Matariki is our big topic for the start of this term. It is an integrated unit involving social sciences (cultures of people and how the past is important to people) numeracy, te reo, technology and the arts. Students have now been given the opportunity to experience a Matariki Breakfast at school followed by a hangi. We are thankful to the Whānau Group for providing our students with these opportunities as they greatly enhance the learning that takes place in the classroom.

## Health and Physical Education

Students will have three trips on Tuesdays to Ākau Tangi Sports Centre in Kilbirnie. The programme is designed to give them positive and fun experiences where they can learn to contribute to a team environment. Coaches will teach gymnastics, throwing and catching, and futsal ball skills.

On Monday 21 August we have planned a special FIFA morning to coincide with the FIFA World Cup - where we will have two coaches from Kelly Sports. Connor and an additional Kelly Sports coach will run a fun football morning. On Tuesday 22 August each class will have a coaching session for cricket.

## Science



In the first week of this term students had 2 lessons about the importance of *Litterless Lunches*. Students were encouraged to think about the need to reduce waste going to landfill.

The educator was - Lorraine Boennic - Waste Educator at WCC.

Towards the end of term, students will learn about "The Water Cycle" and have experiences with the many ways that water can present itself. They will also get to be *kaitiaki* (guardians) of their local environment with an organised clean-up of a local area that is important to them.

## Homework

- Newstime: It is expected that students will regularly participate and contribute during news time. This helps to develop their oral language skills and supports students get to know one another.
- Reading and Writing: Students benefit from a daily time when they can read to their parents or a caregiver. This builds up their self-confidence and creates 'reading mileage', which is so important for children learning to read. Providing your child with authentic writing opportunities, for example, writing a reminder note, a list or a card for a friend helps them to engage with writing.
- Poems: These are sent home on a Friday to be shared with an adult. Poems help students develop a sense of rhythm and rhyme, and fun with words. Poems can be read in a theatrical manner too!

## Reminders

A friendly reminder that students need to have a named rain jacket in their bag in case of wet weather. This is especially important on days when the students are walking to the bus or over to Rose Street.

## Upcoming Events

Monday 31 July: '100 days at school celebration' for Rooms 0 and 3

Tuesday 1 and Tuesday 8 August: Trip to Ākau Tangi Sports Centre

Friday 11 August: Wheels Day at lunchtime (notice to follow, this is led by Kōwhai students)

Monday 21 August: Kelly Sports FIFA Fun at school

Tuesday 22 August: Cricket coaching, half hour session/class

Pohutukawa Classroom Activity Donation - Term 3	
<i>Amount charged to Student Statement for 2023</i>	\$100.00
<u>Term 1</u>	
Life Education Visit	\$6.00
Term 1 Total	\$6.00
<u>Term 2</u>	
Visiting author - Book Week 18th May	\$2.00
NZ Playhouse performance - 24th May	\$5.00
City Gallery Trip - 6th June, return bus fare (funded by Creatives in School project)	\$6.00
Term 2 Total	\$13.00
<u>Term 3</u>	
Ākau Tangi visits 25 <sup>th</sup> July 1 <sup>st</sup> August & 8 <sup>th</sup> August 3 sessions /visit with coaching for gymnastics, throwing & catching with ball skills	\$17.00
FIFA Fun at school – led by 2 Kelly Sports coaches, 30 minute session/class	\$4.00
Term 3 Total	\$21.00
TOTAL spent to date:	\$40.00

## Communication

Teachers value a home-school partnership. A good way to communicate daily is by putting a note in your child's notebook (Room 1) or by emailing your child's teacher. If you have an urgent message that needs to get to your child before the end of the school day, please phone the school office who will relay the message to your child's teacher.

Teachers do not look at emails during class time which is why we recommend a phone call. Please do share any concerns, questions or positive feedback with your child's teacher.

We look forward to another great term as we all "GROW" together, with your continuing partnership and support.

Ngā mihi nui

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