



# Wadestown School

*Growing and Connecting as Learners*

## Rata Team Newsletter Term 3, 2023



Tēnā koutou Parents, Caregivers, and Whānau

It was wonderful to see most of you at our Three-Way Conferences in Week 10 of Term 2, and to catch up with some of you in the first couple of weeks of this term. Term 3 is an exciting term. We started this term with Zero Waste Education lessons about recycling, run by Lorraine from the Wellington City Council and greeted new students and whānau to Wadestown School with our Mihi Whakatau in Week 1. By the time this newsletter goes out we would have celebrated Matariki with a special breakfast on Thursday and a whole school hangi on Friday. It is a busy term ahead with Artsplash, Oral Presentations, and a trip to see Musical Stars perform 'Aladdin the Musical'. We are continuing to be vigilant about washing hands, using hand sanitiser, and keeping our rooms well ventilated.

### **Rata Oral Presentations**

The Rata 'Oral Presentations' are a fantastic way to help our students become more confident speakers, while teaching the rest of their class about something they are interested in. Students are learning to give simple explanations and instructions, speak with clarity about their ideas and information, and use appropriate and topic-specific vocabulary. The timetables went home last term. If you have any questions about the oral presentations or would like another copy of the timetable, please contact your child's classroom teacher. While we encourage parental support, we respectfully ask that children take the lead on these presentations; namely the selection of a topic and content that is meaningful to them, as we find when students are passionate about the topic, it is evident in their presentation.

### **Our Wadestown School GROW Values**

Every two weeks we focus on a different school value and what it means for us. The focus for the first two weeks of Term 3 has been Wonder (Mīhara). This will be followed by Gratitude (Whakawhetai), Resilience (Manawaroa), and Others (Whanaungatanga). We integrate our values into our daily programmes.

### **Reflection on Book Week for 2023**



It was wonderful seeing everyone dressed up for our character parade last term. Book Week allowed us to show our appreciation for our favourite books and to share our joy for reading, with others.

## Literacy

**Reading:** In our whole class and group reading lessons, students are developing and using a range of comprehension strategies to understand and use what they read. We are currently focusing on inferring meaning from given texts. Our students will be reading a variety of texts, increasing their understanding of how and why they are written. They will also be improving their knowledge through Reciprocal Reading; a process where students work in a team to clarify, infer, summarise and question what they read.

**Writing:** In writing, students are learning how to give and receive feedback, to help them edit and take ownership of their goals. They will also take what they learn from their reading to develop their own writing.

**Handwriting:** Handwriting is part of the classroom literacy programme.

**Oral Language:** Oral language will be developed through the Rata Oral Presentations this term. These include reflection and peer feedback.

**Structured Literacy:** Structured Literacy focuses on how we teach: explicitly, systematically and cumulatively, and what we teach: Phonemic Awareness, Orthography (the spelling system), Morphology, Vocabulary, Syntax and Grammar, to give our students the skills they need to read, spell and write with confidence. Across the school this term, we are introducing a Structured Literacy resource called 'The Code' which was developed by Liz Kane. From Term 3, we will be teaching daily lessons using 'The Code'. These lessons focus on a particular sound and any associated spelling rule with it. Students will not be taking spelling words home, as the daily work on 'The Code', will replace daily learning of spelling words at home.

## Numeracy

For the first three weeks of Term 3, students are learning about measuring time, area, and volume and capacity. We are also helping students increase their knowledge of fractions as they begin to learn more about proportions and ratios.

Basic facts knowledge continues to be an important area to build upon, as this knowledge is essential when solving problems as they become more complex. A strong understanding of place value also continues to be an important area to develop. We will revisit addition and subtraction later in the term. Opportunities to show your children maths in an authentic context outside of school will build their understanding.

<https://nzmaths.co.nz/families-and-whanau> is where you can find great ideas for maths activities you can do with your children. For example, they suggest looking at junk mail and asking your child to decide which is the best value. You could ask your child what they would like to buy if they had \$100 or \$1000 dollars to spend. Other suggestions include playing card or board games, baking with them using measuring cups, spoons ( $\frac{1}{2}$  and  $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoons) and scales.

## Physical Education: Sports



**Ākau Tangi Sports:** Last term we enjoyed developing further skills in floorball, dodgeball and gymnastics at the Ākau Tangi Sports Centre. Thank you so much to the parents who helped us on our Ākau Tangi trip!

**Focus for Term 3:** As well as our daily fitness sessions, we have started the term by working on our large ball skills. In Week 5 we will have a cricket lesson with the Smash Play cricket ambassadors, after which we will change our skills focus to small ball skills including fielding and striking.

## The Arts in Rata

**Artsplash:** This is our focus for the term. It is Wellington's annual primary and intermediate school arts festival. After a spectacular performance last year, we are fortunate to be taking part again. Through Artsplash, students will be learning about music, dance, drama, and the visual arts. Among other activities they will learn how to make and use poi for our performance of Pātea Māori Club's waiata: 'Poi E'. Students are also learning New Zealand sign language actions for the song 'Count on Me' by Bruno Mars. We are preparing for the performance by learning all the songs and actions and will perform at the Michael Fowler Centre on Tuesday 12 September. There is a rehearsal at the centre on that day and the evening performance begins at 5pm. Up to four tickets are available for each student.

**Music:** Students will learn about communicating and interpreting in music. They will share music making and respond to live and recorded music.

**Dance:** Students will learn about dance in context. They will identify and describe dance in their lives and communities.

**Drama:** Students will learn about developing our ideas with others to create drama.

**Visual Arts:** Students will learn about communicating and interpreting in visual art. By exploring the work of different artists as well as their own art, they will share the ideas, feelings and stories that are being communicated. Students will also continue learning how to use different tools and a range of materials to create their artworks.

## Rata Team Trip: Aladdin the Musical

We are fortunate to have a Rata student performing in **Aladdin the Musical**, which is produced by the Musical Stars Performance Trust. We will be attending the performance at the Lower Hutt Little Theatre on Tuesday 19 September. Further details to come.

## Te Reo Māori me ngā Tikanga

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

**Te Ao Māori:** Matua Alwyn and Matua Hemi will continue to support our learning in Te Ao Māori in Term 3. We started our term with our whole school Mihi Whakatau to welcome new students and their whānau, and a celebration of Matariki to extend our learning from last term. This term we will integrate our Te Ao Māori learning into our work on Artsplash.

**Te Reo Māori:** For te reo, students will learn to use and respond to simple classroom language (including asking for the word to express something in te reo Māori).

**Tikanga:** For tikanga students will be learning about ***Whakamana Te Reo*** - giving authority and relevance to Te Reo through everyday use.

## Zero Waste Education

To start the term, Rata has done a deep dive into reusing (including making things out of recycling items) with Lorraine Boennic, the Waste Educator for the Wellington City Council. Lorraine was incredibly well organised and engaging. Our students loved the lessons and were excited to create their own "useful thing" from rubbish. They planned their design in a booklet and thought of how rubbish could be used to make their design.

## Homework

Thank you for your continued support of your children at home to reinforce what they are learning at school. Our students are busy organising their oral presentations this term and we appreciate your help. The focus of homework is reading daily and learning basic facts. Students will not be taking spelling words home, as the daily work on 'The Code', will replace daily learning of spelling words. It would be great if the children can become increasingly more responsible for managing their own homework.

As you will be aware, we do not set homework for the first and last week of each term. In the first week they are settling in and in the last week they are often tired. However, you are welcome to encourage your children to practise their reading and basic facts during these weeks.

## Wellington City Gallery Trip



One day Rata went to the Wellington City Gallery to see Reuben Paterson's artwork. It was so beautiful to see. Matt and Claire showed us around. As soon as I got in the art gallery, I saw a lovely golden tree made by Reuben Paterson. It was so shiny. My eyes were amazed because of the golden glitter. It was bright and epic. I saw a big picture of a bright blue tiger. It was made from glitter. The tiger was blue and black and Reuben used white for the whiskers. When I moved, the tiger moved with me.

We went to the workshop in the gallery. For my artwork, we used glitter, paper, ink, and a hair dryer. First off, I was handed a piece of paper and folded it from corner to corner, two times to form a small triangle. Next, I drew some shapes on the paper and cut the shapes out. I then opened the paper up and used it as a stencil on a piece of black card. We covered the pattern in ink. We went over to the glitter station and covered our art in light blue glitter. Finally, we pinned our artwork up to dry.

I enjoyed the trip to the gallery. It was great to see all the beautiful pieces of art. My favourite was the golden tree because it was shiny.

By Hunter, Room 7

## Pink Shirt Day



We all wore pink to celebrate Pink Shirt Day last term. The day was about putting a stop to bullying and celebrating how we are all unique.

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

Rata Team 2023 Classroom Activity Donation - Term 3		
Amount charged to Student Statement		\$100.00
<b>Term 1</b>		
Life Education Booklet	\$6.00	
<b>Term 1 spend total</b>		<b>\$6.00</b>
<b>Term 2</b>		
Wellington City Art Gallery	\$12.00	
ASB Sports Coaching	\$17.00	
NZ Playhouse	\$5.00	
Book Week Visiting Author	\$2.00	
<b>Term 2 spend total</b>		<b>\$36.00</b>
<b>Term 3</b>		
Artsplash Rehearsal	\$7.50	
Aladdin The Musical	\$17.50	
<b>Term 3 spend total</b>		<b>\$25.00</b>
<b>Total 2023 Classroom Activity Donation spent to date</b>		<b>\$67.00</b>

### Dates to Remember

- **23-24 August**  
School Photos
- **22 August**  
Smash Play cricket lessons
- **9 September (Sat)**  
School Working Bee
- **11-15 September**  
Māori Language Week  
(Te Wiki o te Reo Māori)
- **12 September**  
Artsplash rehearsal and 5pm performance
- **19 September**  
Aladdin The Musical

**Elizabeth Chater**, Room 7, (Team Leader)

**Melissa Kosmadakis**, Room 8

**Ali Clearwater**, Room 14

**Robyn Grover**, (Deputy Principal Ys 1 - 4/SENCo)

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### Reminders

Please check that all uniform items are clearly named 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 9.00am and 3.00pm please remember to sign them in/ out at the office.