



# Wadestown School

*Te Whakatipu me to Honohono Hei Akonga  
Growing and Connecting as Learners*

## Rata Team Newsletter Term 4, 2023



Tēnā Koutou Parents, Caregivers, and Whānau,

Welcome to Term 4! Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help us with our trips over the year. Without your support, our trips to the Artsplash rehearsal and the Aladdin Musical would not have been possible. We extend a warm welcome to our new students and whānau who joined us in Term 3 at Wadestown School. In Room 7 we have Lyo Mclean, in Room 8 we have Noah Mclean, and in Room 14 we have Michelle Anish.

This term sees a return to wearing bucket hats to protect our tamariki from the sun. The use of sunscreen is also advised. We will continue to be vigilant about washing hands, using hand sanitiser, and keeping our rooms well ventilated.

### Artsplash



Our students did an incredible job at Artsplash this year. They worked hard to learn the lyrics for all nine songs, the sign language for 'Count On Me' by Bruno Mars, and the poi actions for 'Poi-E' by the Pātea Māori Club. Many students helped to make the poi and all students showed respect when handling them for the show. Our students are to be commended on their fantastic performance and we are very proud of them all.



## Rata Inquiry: Wellington Wildlife - Survive and Thrive

This term our inquiry is all about how the wildlife of Te Whanganui-ā-Tara survives and thrives. We will be learning about native species that are endemic to the Wellington region, what they need to survive, and how looking after their habitats can help them to survive and thrive. Students will be making connections as they learn about different species through the curriculum areas of science, technology, and Aotearoa New Zealand histories. Through Forest and Bird, we have organised guest speakers to visit Wadestown School. They will tell our students about their work to help our local wildlife survive and thrive in the Wellington area. If any parents would like to visit and talk to their child's class about the environmental work that they are involved in, or would like to help us take action (for example helping us make weta motels or mini worm farms) please contact your classroom teacher. All help is greatly appreciated.

### Zealandia Trip

As part of our inquiry into Wellington Wildlife, we have planned a trip to Zealandia. On Thursday 23 November, we will travel by bus to Zealandia where we will learn about the nature of science in a Zealandia context. Many scientists conduct exciting research in and around Zealandia because they are one of the few places on the mainland where so many rare native and endemic species can be seen in their natural habitat. A letter will be going out next week with more information and to ask for parent helpers.

### Year 4 Matiu/ Somes Island Trip

On Thursday 30 November, the Year 4s will be spending the whole day out of school to learn about Matiu/Somes Island. We will first travel by bus to The Wellington Museum where we will learn more about the history of Matiu/Somes Island and its significance to local iwi. After which, we will catch the ferry over to Matiu/Somes Island to explore. Students will leave school at 9:30 am and will return to school at 4:00 pm. A letter has gone out to parents earlier this week with a request for parent helpers and an overview of the day.

### Keep New Zealand Beautiful



On Wednesday 13 September, we joined in with the nationwide initiative to Keep New Zealand Beautiful. As we walked up to Weld Street to sing some of our Artsplash waiata, we cleaned up rubbish along the streets and on the zigzag path. Our students did a great job of cleaning up and, when we got back to school, some students used their own time to continue cleaning during their lunch break.

## Literacy

**Reading:** Students will continue to develop and use a range of comprehension skills throughout the term to understand what they read. The Year 4s will be learning to use their strategies to complete a novel study, while the Year 3s will develop and use their thinking skills to explore a range of fairy tales. Rata students will also be reading and summarising non-fiction texts as part of our Wellington Wildlife inquiry.

**Writing:** This term students are learning how to construct a range of sentences (including simple, compound and complex) in order to build a solid foundation for their writing. They will be using their own words to write about different native species as part of our inquiry learning and we will be teaching our students the grammar and conventions of English within the context of their writing. Students will extend their editing skills and work on goal setting. We will also be helping students reflect on their learning and experiences over the year, in preparation for writing self-reflections for their end of year reports.

**Handwriting:** Handwriting continues to be part of the classroom literacy programme.

**Oral Language:** We will be using our oral language time to learn more about school values and developing positive relationships. We will do this through discussion, brainstorming and role plays.

**Structured Literacy:** We are continuing to 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. In addition to our classroom literacy program, we are continuing to teach daily lessons using The Code.

## Numeracy

We have started the term by focusing on developing our strategies in addition and subtraction. Later in the term we will move into multiplication and division, and finally geometry where students will learn about position and orientation, shapes and symmetry. Throughout the term, students will continue to build their number knowledge as this makes it easier for them to find the solutions to problems. The areas of knowledge are basic facts, fractions, place value and number identification.

It is important for students to have a growth mindset when approaching mathematics. This will enable them to feel confident about what they can do and help our students to see themselves as mathematicians. At school we have conversations about how we solve problems. This is to help students understand that there is more than one way to solve a problem and to reinforce the strategies they have been learning to use. The following address: <https://nzmaths.co.nz/families-and-whanau> is where you can find great ideas for maths activities you can do with your children. You can continue to help your child build their numeracy skills by noticing patterns together, playing games that involve manipulating numbers and asking them to tell you the time.

## Physical Education: Sports

This term we have started with a focus on athletics, in preparation for our Year 4 – 8 Athletics Day on 1 November. Students have been learning how to throw vortex, quoits, jump correctly in preparation for long jump and high jump, as well as how to run in a relay where they have to pass a baton. The Year 3s will be attending The Year 3 Sports Festival, hosted by Marsden School on 31 October. They will participate in a range of fun sports games run by Year 9 and 10 Marsden students. A letter has gone home this week asking for parent volunteers. After athletics, we will be focusing on small ball skills and daily fitness will continue.

## Aladdin Musical 2023



In Term 3 we went to Lower Hutt Little Theatre to watch the Aladdin Musical. We had an amazing time and we were all very proud of Jamie Whyte who performed in the show. We were also impressed with the other Wadestown School students who were involved.

### Visual Arts

Last term our students learned about warm and cold colours and how colours can compliment and contrast each other. At the beginning of Term 4, we proudly exhibited a selection of our art in the Wadestown School Art Gallery, and we enjoyed seeing other artworks from across the school. This term our main focus will be on observational sketching as we learn about the elements of art, including line, colour, shape, pattern and texture. Later in the term we will create three dimensional artworks as part of our inquiry into Wellington wildlife.

### School Values

We will continue to learn about our GROW values of Gratitude, Resilience, Others and Wonder. Each class will discuss what the values mean and continue to integrate them into our classroom programs. For the first two weeks of this term we have focused on Others (Whanaungatanga). This will be followed by Wonder (Mīharo), Gratitude (Whakawhetai) and Resilience (Manawaroa).

### Te Reo Māori me ngā Tikanga

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

**Te Ao Māori:** We are fortunate at Wadestown School to have the continued support of Matua Alwyn and Matua Hemi. We have a high level of student engagement during our Te Reo and Kapa Haka lessons, especially later in the term when we learn how to sing Christmas waiata. This term we will integrate our Te Ao Māori learning into our learning about Wellington wildlife.

**Te Reo Māori:** For te reo, students will learn to use and respond to simple language to talk about our native species. They will be able to ask for the word to express something in te reo Māori.

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

### Homework

Thanks again for your continued support of your children at home to reinforce what they are learning at school. The Rata oral presentations have been of a consistently high standard and have been enjoyed by all. Thank you for helping your children experience success. The focus of homework in Term 4 is to read daily and learn basic facts. As you are aware students will not be taking spelling words home, as the daily work on 'The Code' has replaced spelling homework.

## Rata Photo Gallery



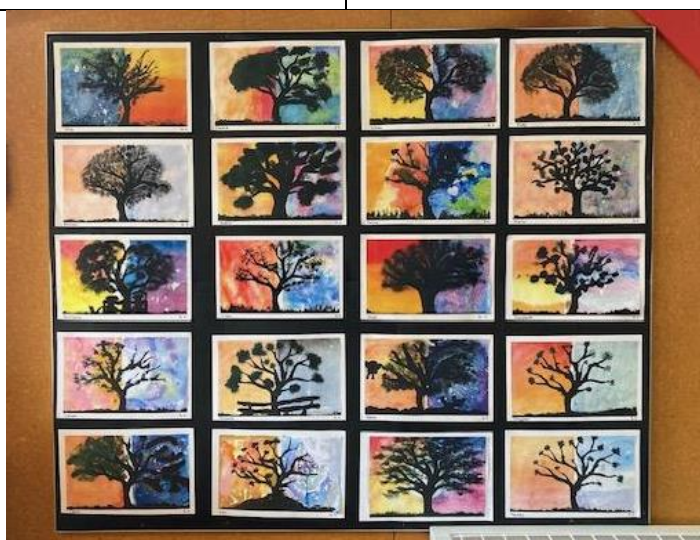
Room 8 Gallery Artworks



Mindfulness balancing



Room 7 Art Gallery Artworks



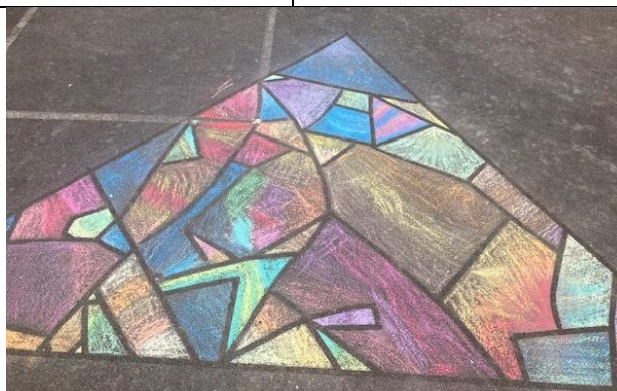
Room 14 Art Gallery Artworks



Making paper snakes during an Oral Presentation



Safety First!



Collaborative Chalk Art

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

**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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<b>Rata Team 2023 Classroom Activity Donation - Term 4</b>		
<i>Amount charged to Student Statement</i>		<b>\$100.00</b>
<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>Term 4</b>		
Year 3 Sports Festival	\$8.50	
Year 4 Athletics	\$5.50	
Year 4 Contribution towards Matiu/Somes Island Trip	\$3.00	
Zealandia	\$17.00	
Kelly Sports Sessions	\$6.50	
Christmas Crafts	\$1.00	
<b>Term 4 spend total</b>		<b>\$33.00</b>
<b>Total 2023 Classroom Activity Donation</b>		<b>\$100.00</b>

## Dates to Remember

**23 October**  
 Labour Day  
**31 October**  
 Year 3 Sports Festival  
**1 November**  
 Year 4 - 8 Athletics  
**13 November**  
 Kelly Sports Session 1  
**20 November**  
 Kelly Sports Session 2  
**23 November**  
 Zealandia Trip  
**24 November**  
 Teacher Only Day  
**30 November**  
 Year 4 Matiu/Somes  
 Island Trip  
**14 December**  
 Meet your 2024 teacher  
**15 December**  
 Last day  
 School finishes at  
 12.30pm

## Reminders

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

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.

Please remind your child to wear a bucket hat every day.

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