



Wadestown School

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



Pohutukawa Team (Year 1 & 2) Newsletter Term 1, 2024

Kia ora Parents, Caregivers and Whānau

Nau mai, haere mai and welcome to Term Tahi (Term 1)!

We hope you have enjoyed a wonderful summer with your families and whānau and that the sun continues to shine when we're all back at school.



Rūma Tahi (Room 1) welcomes new entrant tamariki (children) and their whānau: Archie, Natalie, Thomas, Freddie and Kayson. Four more students will join Room 1 this month and over the beginning of March: Norah, Cairo, Charlie, Isaac, Lily and Cooper.

A big welcome also to our new kaiako (teacher) Miss Ali Clearwater in Rūma Toru (Room 3). It is **wonderful** to have Ali at Weld Street and you can read more about her in the introduction below.

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

Our Wadestown School Values

Our school values are "G-R-O-W":

Gratitute (Whakawhetai), **R**esilience (Manawaroa), **O**thers (Whānaungatanga) and **W**onder (Mīharo)
Each term there are new opportunities to express these values.

Gratitute - is linked to overall happiness. Teachers will be encouraging students to regularly think about what they're thankful for because this will help to:

- evoke positive feelings and emotions
- remind us of all the things and people who contribute to our lives
- help build appreciation, empathy and kindness.

Gratitute is a social skill that students need to learn and practice.

Resilience - is a skill that can be taught. Our students will be given challenges along with opportunities to **problem-solve**. They will be encouraged to take risks and to see "mistakes"

as a learning opportunity. Learning how to manage their emotions will help them build their resilience.

Others – it is important that students learn skills to respect other people’s personal space. There will be times when they need to cooperate with others and to share. They will learn to listen to others, to make eye contact and how to negotiate with others. During break times they will learn to play fair and to be a good sport.

Wonder - it is important for students to be able to critically think and reflect on the world around them. They will be encouraged to ask questions and to draw on their prior knowledge to assist with new learning. Our students will have the opportunity to engage with science and to think/wonder about how truly amazing their BRAINS are this term.

Introducing the Pohutukawa Team:

Pohutukawa Team Leader:

Room 1 Amanda Lamble amanda@wadestown.school.nz



I make it a priority to build relationships with family, whānau and students so that there is a smooth transition to school. I liaise with the pre-school centres that feed into Wadestown School so that we have good lines of communication. It is important that everyone feels welcome and happy to be here. I am thankful that our students can attend school in person, and that teaching under COVID is a “past life”. I love being involved with learning outside the classroom and am thankful for the excellent parent support and involvement that we enjoy here at Wadestown School.

Classroom Release Teacher and Relieving Teacher

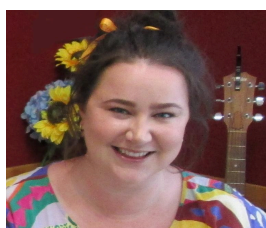
Ann Marshall ann@wadestown.school.nz



Ann has become a well known face around the school. When teachers have Classroom Release Time (CRT) or are absent from school then Ann Marshall is our dedicated relieving teacher. In 2024, Ann will be the CRT for the Pohutukawa Team.

Ann works at both our Weld and Rose Street sites and has previously team-taught with Robyn at Weld Street, in Room 3.

Room 3 Ali Clearwater ali@wadestown.school.nz



For the last three years, I have been teaching Years 3 and 4 in the Rata Team at the Rose Street site. This year, I am delighted to move to the Weld Street site to join the Pohutukawa Team. 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 Psychology have influenced my perspective on learning and teaching. I enjoy building strong relationships with my students, empowering them to become confident learners and having fun in the classroom. I have loved leading the Senior Band over the past two years at Rose Street and look forward to creating opportunities for children to be involved in the performing arts again this year. I look forward to working collaboratively with you to create memorable learning experiences with the students.

Room 0 Joy Henderson joy@wadestown.school.nz



Wadestown School holds a special place in my heart as my own children began their educational journey in Room 1. I am very fortunate to have been both a parent and a teacher at Wadestown School and have taught at both Wadestown School sites. Currently I am on my second stint at Weld Street in the Pohutukawa Team having taught at Rose Street in the Rata Team for four years. Helping the children to understand their emotions and alleviating anxiety by being mindful each day is a particular passion of mine. Already Room 0 students are learning how to breathe mindfully!

Reading Recovery Teacher Angela Clark angela@wadestown.school.nz



I am the Reading Recovery teacher at Wadestown School for 2024. I like being a specialist teacher of literacy and love working specifically with five to six year olds. They are so quirky and bossy and funny all rolled into one. Reading Recovery allows teaching that is individual in a one-to-one setting or small group. That is the type of teaching I like the best.

Deputy Principal Years 1- 4

Robyn Grover robyn@wadestown.school.nz



I have been at Wadestown School in the role of Deputy Principal (Y1-4) and SENCO for the past 13 years. In this role I feel privileged to watch your child's school journey begin and progress through the school, developing a connection with you and your child. I love interacting in some small way with our students each day.

This year, I am also the Team Leader for Year 3 and 4 (Rata Team) so will be based at Rose St every Monday morning and all day Wednesday and Thursday. Away from school, I enjoy catching up with family and friends, an occasional movie, being engrossed in a book and a bike ride or walk. Whilst our three children are living in the UK and Europe, my husband and I are enjoying travelling vicariously **with** them.

Curriculum Learning Areas

Literacy

At Wadestown School we are continuing our journey on **Structured Literacy** and this year one of our key focuses will be on **Handwriting**. Research has shown that the greatest impact on student writing is handwriting: **students being able to form letters correctly, and automatically**. This reduces the cognitive load for a student writing and it has been shown that handwriting has a greater impact on learning and memory.* In 2024 all Y1 - 8 classes will have handwriting lessons four times a week. Lessons will be explicit, systematic, cumulative and diagnostic. In Year 1 the focus will be on developing a correct pencil grip and learning to form letters correctly. In Year 2 the focus will also include neatness and automaticity.

*Handwriting Better Than Typing for Learning and Memory

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l69-_wKYn_Y

Pohutukawa Team students have instructional reading and writing for one hour each day. This includes the teaching of: phonics, spelling, handwriting, oral language development and grammar.

Research has shown that the most important skills for success in reading and writing are:

- Being able to identify the first and last sound in a word
- Ability to segment sounds e.g the word is "can" and the sounds are c-a-n
- Ability to blend sounds together e.g. "r-a-t & the word is rat"

Mathematics

Students have daily lessons where there is a focus on developing number knowledge which involves: counting forwards and backwards, identifying numbers, learning about place value, and then being able to use this knowledge to solve word problems and equations in addition and subtraction. They are learning to **communicate** their solutions using pictures, words, and simple **equations**. Students work at various stages, according to their learning needs.

Statistics at the start of the year is a fun and authentic way for the children to learn about each other. They will take part in various 'surveys' to **gather data**, which the children learn to record as pictographs, tally charts and **bar graphs**.

Inquiry: Science and Health

This term our inquiry is about "Our **AMAZING** Brains". The primary focus learning areas will be science and health with the development of oral language within these learning areas.

Students will:

- recognise that all animals and humans have brains which help them to stay alive
- build their language and develop their understanding of what the brain does
- recognise that the brain helps us to learn about the world around us and to relate to others
- understand how to look after the brain e.g. the importance of sleep and wearing a helmet when scootering

On Wednesday 6 March, we have a trip booked to Wellington Zoo where students will participate in an "Animal Behaviour" workshop. Students will learn about the ways in which primate brains are unique, and they will find out about the strengths of different animals in terms of senses and cognition.

Physical Education

This term will have a focus on **athletics** (run - jump - throw) and tennis. On Wednesday afternoons classes will be cross-grouped and students will participate in a sports rotation programme. We are planning a Sports Day where parents can attend and stay for lunch. Further details to follow.

Te Ao Māori

Our Kapa Haka Kaiako (teacher) Hemi Prime teaches a weekly lesson on Thursdays. Alwyn Rees is also a specialist teacher in Te Reo and he teaches a fortnightly lesson on a Thursday covering Te Reo and the Aotearoa/New Histories curriculum. At the start of the term the learning will be focussed on Te Tiriti o Waitangi (The Treaty of Waitangi).

New students, teachers and whānau are all formally welcomed at the Mihi Whakatau at Rose St, in Week 3. This will begin at 9:15 am and is a wonderful opportunity to connect with the whole school.

The Arts

In the visual arts, students will develop their drawing and painting skills, using shape, form and colour to express themselves. Teachers will read books about art and artists and they will create a self-portrait in the style of an artist.

In music, students will also learn waiata (songs) together as a whole group.

Technology

Discovery Time on a Friday has a technology focus and our students learn to work with other students across the three classes at Weld Street. Often it is the students themselves who choose to work in a group. Teachers observe that some students prefer to still work by themselves to construct or complete a challenging task. We would like to have a variety of materials on offer and would appreciate parent contributions of loose parts or upcycled materials such as: craft supplies, buttons, straws, gems, ribbons and netting. Thank you to Michelle Crutchley for the recent delivery of quality fabric swatches .

Our Year 1 and 2 students will have group access to i-pads to support their literacy and numeracy learning.

Homework

- **Newstime:** It is expected that students will regularly participate and contribute during news time. This helps develop their oral language skills and helps students get to know one another.
- **Reading and Poems:** Students benefit from a daily time when they can read to their parents or a caregiver. This builds up their self-confidence and creates a 'reading mileage', which is so important for children learning to read. Poems on a Friday help students develop a sense of rhythm and rhyme, and fun with words. They are perfect for practicing reading with expression.

- **Writing and Handwriting:** Students need to have authentic writing opportunities, for example: writing their own birthday invitations or Easter cards for their family or friends.

Upcoming Events and dates to remember

13 February:	"Meet the Teacher Evening" @ 5:00 pm - 5:45 pm in Room 2
15 February:	Mihi Whakatau at Rose St @ 9:15 am
27 February:	Kaiako/Whānau Meetings
6 March:	Zoo Trip
21 March:	Sports Day at Benburn Park details (date TBC)
28 March:	Kāhui Ako Teacher Only Day - School Closed for instruction
29 March:	Good Friday - School Closed
1 - 2 April:	Easter Monday & Tuesday break
12 April:	Last day of Term 1

Pohutukawa Classroom Activity Donation - Term 1	
<i>Amount charged to Student Statement for 2024</i>	\$100.00
	<u>Term 1</u>
Zoo Trip cost for return bus & entry of \$8/student	\$15.00
Sports Day return bus fare to Benburn Park cost TBC	\$7.00
Term 1 Total	\$22.00

Reminders

- Your child needs to have a named school sunhat kept at school in their chair bag.
- Please apply sunscreen at home before school. Your child can reapply sunscreen during the day with a named roll on sunscreen (kept in their school bag).

Request for Help

There are three current areas that would be great to have some help with. Please email [Amanda Lamble](#) if you can help with any of the following:

1. Book Roster - we have "Book Fairies" that re-shelve the guided readers. This takes up to 2 hours each week., or less depending on how many Book fairies are doing this
2. The Playhouse - could do with some new dress up costumes and some bedding for the baby's cot

3. Gardening & weeding the two planter boxes (in front of the playhouse and by the office area)

Discovery Time last Friday

Sunshine and fun in the sandpit



Room 1 make masks for letter "m"



Heads Up.....MOVIN MARCH is COMING SOON!! Details to follow 😊

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

Ngā mihi nui,

Amanda Lamble, Room 1 (Pohutukawa Team Leader)

Ali Clearwater, Room 3

Joy Henderson, Room 0

Angela Clarke, Reading Recovery Teacher

Robyn Grover

**** Please note that Amanda Frater's email is**

amanda@wadestown.school.nz

ali@wadestown.school.nz

joy@wadestown.school.nz

angela@wadestown.school.nz

robyn@wadestown.school.nz

amandaf@wadestown.school.nz.