

NGĀ WAI 2024////

TERM 1 NEWSLETTER

Kia ora!

Welcome to all whānau of Ngā Wai. We do hope you have had an excellent summer.

We'd like to begin with mentioning how excited we are to welcome the Year 4 students into Ngā Wai. It is a very big shift for our team, but one which offers incredible possibilities for support and extension of our ākonga. It also offers us the opportunity to adapt and change to suit the needs of our learners.

After only a couple of days back at school, it is easy to see how well the Year 4s fit into our social fabric. Our team is especially lucky to have kaiako with many combined years of teaching in a Year 3/4 environment as well as Year 5/6.

The Aotearoa/New Zealand Curriculum Refresh, which is now into its third year, brackets its objectives and understandings into the Year groups of Year 4 to Year 6. Aligning our team with this as more curriculum areas come online, makes sense from a teaching and learning viewpoint.

As in any transformative process there are sidesteps, adjustments and challenges to face, and we welcome you to be part of this. Working together, we can make 2024 a year of adventure and learning for the students in our team.

Term One will be a foundation building term with teachers extending and beginning their relationships with the students. It is a term of identifying skills, strengths and needs, and shifting dispositions in core subject areas. We will be mixing the classes up at different times of the week, and this will increase as the year progresses.

Term One Learning////

As teachers develop understanding of their learners there will be oral language and instructional comprehension. Our oral language focus will be on storytelling and enriching vocabulary to add detail. George's Marvelous Medicine (see below) will be the start point for the instructional comprehension.

Early sessions of mathematics will involve "whole class" activities to provide teachers with an opportunity to assess levels of students. Following that the term long focus will be on addition and subtraction skills in whole and part numbers.

We are also reflecting back on our past and implementing a teacher led research inquiry into place and culture. This will take on a "project" model and may even include a title page! Something nearly all of us coveted in our youth.

Something we are carrying over from 2023 is our PROJECT X. When Year 4s are swimming, our Year 5 and 6s will pick up our local impact projects and bring them closer to fruition.

From Week 3 we will also resume our EQ sessions that run in conjunction with Te Reo and Robotics/Coding.

Bronagh Crook and Rowan Youngblood are our specialist release teachers this term. Bronagh will be taking three sessions with each class on the technical aspects of portraiture with pastels. Rowan is taking a scientific angle with our classes, building vocabulary and comprehension of scientific concepts.

Swimming/////

The **Year 4s will be swimming this term, starting Wednesday 7 February** at Wellington Regional Aquatic Centre. Students will leave by bus at 9:00am and arrive back at school at morning tea time. Sean Mead will accompany them. They will be joined by the Year 3 students and a teacher from the Junior School.

Please help your child to organise their swim gear (togs, towel, goggles, hair tie, in a waterproof bag) the night before.

Our **Year 5 & 6s will begin swimming on Mondays in Term 2.**

Teaching team/////

We welcome the addition of Sean Mead to our team. Sean brings with him an amazing knowledge and experience of our Year Fours and Fives, and a creative teaching skill set.

Our team in 2024 is;

Glen Sneddon - Team Leader and Kaiako of Te Moana (The ocean)

Megan Hinge - Kaiako of Ngā Awa (The rivers)

Paul Brownlie - Kaiako of Ngā Roto (The lakes)

Sean Mead - Kaiako of Waitomo (waters underground).



Te Moana	glen.sneddon@hataitai.school.nz	Ngā Awa	megan.hinge@hataitai.school.nz
Ngā Roto	paul.brownlie@hataitai.school.nz	Waitomo	sean.mead@hataitai.school.nz

Teachers in Ngā Wai can be contacted via email. We endeavour to respond either before or after school hours. For urgent situations, please contact the School Office. Our main portal of communication with parents is via Seesaw.

Kura Ahurea/////

We are excited to be partnering with the Kura Ahurea who will introduce a Te Ātiawa ki Te Whanganui a Tara/Taranaki Whānui (mana whenua/Local iwi) perspective on local history, tikanga, and kawa. Integrating Te Reo Māori, local historical narratives, and hands-on support from local iwi.

Class Novels/////

We are starting the year with George's Marvelous Medicine by Roald Dahl. You may remember that George creates a highly fantastical and toxic potion from many household objects. Teachers will speak with students about the safety risks, but it is also an opportune time for parents to discuss safe potion making in the kitchen at home.



Out and about 2024/////

This year we will continue to explore the local area through a variety of activities on one afternoon per week.

Last year we visited our local Table Tennis and Croquet Clubs, and ran our very popular Garden to Table programme. We also visited the Town Belt, enjoying the greenery and activities on offer in our backyard.

We are in the process of confirming our activities for Term 1. More details will be out shortly, along with the opportunity for you to join us in the garden, or out and about in the neighbourhood.

Meet the teacher evening////

We will host a Whānau Information Hui soon. Further details will follow shortly.

Leadership opportunities////

In Ngā Wai we offer opportunities for students to apply for various leadership positions by writing a short letter or email, outlining their skills and enthusiasm for learning. However, creativity knows no bounds and your child may have a different idea on how to present their application! We will introduce this to the students on Thursday, and they may apply their ideas for as many as they wish (we will allocate a maximum of two leadership positions per student). Applications will be due by 3pm Wednesday February 14th.

<i>Year 4, 5 & 6</i>	<i>Year 5 & 6</i>	<i>Year 6 only</i>
Movin' March Leader - Paul Site Managers (bathrooms, wall displays) - Sean Your idea - Sean	Table Tennis - Paul PB4L Leader - Megan ICT Leader - Megan PALs (Physical Activity Leaders, leading lunchtime games for junior students) - Glen	Fitness Leaders - Glen Library - Jeanette

Learning at home////

We encourage students to read for pleasure for at least 20 minutes per day, and to share and discuss what they are reading with parents and siblings.

In the coming weeks, each student will also have access to StudyLadder so they can complement their classroom mathematics with extra tasks at home. We hope that students take on a challenge by choice approach, knowing that the effort they put in has visible results across the year.

In Ngā Wai we understand the need for children to have some down time, some time to explore their interests and take a break from the structure of school.

Stationery: Pencil Cases////

In Ngā Wai students are required to have their own pencil cases (we do not share stationery). There are a few students that still require help to get this organised.

Our team is highlighting the pencil case in 2024 (pun intended), to improve self management skills and to be prepared for learning when moving around the team.

Naming things////

We are aiming to reduce the amount of lost property that we have in the school. Please name clothing, drink bottles and lunch boxes. If you are missing anything from 2023, it may be in our foyer.

Pōtae/hat////

It is Term One, so wearing a hat in the playground is the rule. We recommend having a hat which can stay at school, and perhaps one in their bag.

Seesaw and Google accounts////

We operate on both the Seesaw and Google platforms. Seesaw provides a safe and secure way for tamariki to share mahi with home as well as other members of the class. In the coming weeks you will receive an invitation to your child's Seesaw page and class blog. The blog offers a selection of work from across the class. This blog is only available to those with the access code.

Seesaw will be our main way for communicating information relevant to our specific class groupings. Any formal and important teamwide communications will be sent via email and duplicated on Seesaw.

Students also have access to the Google Suite of learning tools including Gmail, Slides and Docs. This is such a powerful group of tools. We will cover the effective and appropriate use of these as Term One progresses. We consider our digital devices tools not toys and we are well protected by the Ministry's

N4L network security. The Gmail accounts also have safety features built in to prevent unsolicited emails. Students new to the school will be allocated an account as soon as processing allows. Whānau are required to sign and return our ICT agreement before device use can begin.

Hataitai Beach School Picnic- Friday 9th February/////

Friends and whānau are welcome to join us for our annual school picnic. This year we have a change in venue, Hataitai Beach on the 9th of February. Please ensure your child has suitable gear for the day, including a hat and clothing to protect your child from the sun and a packed lunch with a full water bottle. Sunblock will be provided but we ask that students apply it before school too.

Canned food, water and tissues/////

Emergency supplies are essential in our classroom. If you are able supply any of the aforementioned goods, they can be dropped off to any classroom in Ngā Wai.

Please see below for important term dates. If you have any questions, please contact your child's classroom teacher. We look forward to an amazing year in Ngā Wai!

Ngā mihi

Ngā Wai kaiako

Important dates Term 1/////

Waitangi Day
Tuesday February 6th

School Picnic
Friday 9th February

Meet the Staff evening
Tuesday 13th February
6.30pm - 8pm in the hall

School Fair
Sunday 24th March

Easter observed
Friday 29th March, Monday 1st and Tuesday 2nd
April - School closed

Last Day of Term 1
Friday 12th April

First Day of Term 2
Monday 29th April

Learning Conferences
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