



Kia Manawanui

Te Rāwhiti & Te Rā Pānui - 17 April 2020
(Term 2 – Autumn Edition)

Te Rā Waldorf School, Te Rāwhiti Kindergarten, Nursery and Playgroups

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Tēnā koutou e ngā whānau,
dear parents, families, and friends,
ahakoa kei hea: no matter in which bubble you are right now.
Welcome back, welcome to term 2 – nau mai, hoki mai!

Greetings to all of you and we hope you are well and warm. April is always the month that announces the approach of winter. In te reo Māori, the name for this time of year is Paenga-whāwhā, which on one hand refers to the star constellation Pegasus whose appearance heralds the start of the month. In their te reo lessons, the school children have learnt to reference this month with a hand gesture that indicates the stacking of straw around the borders (paenga) of garden beds in preparation for winter. Right now, our vege patches have to manage without Mark and his gardening teams from classes 5, 6 and 7, finding their own quiet rhythms!



Rudolf Steiner spoke about the way that the elemental world, and the earth itself, wakes up during winter. In terms of the rhythm of the school year, the winter terms do feel very active and conscious – the time when we can really get down to work.

Since the beginning of this year, many if not all of us have experienced bigger and smaller transitions and changes to our rhythms than usual – as kindergarten and school, and as individual whānau!

One big change is happening in Class 2, whose teacher Svenja will be on maternity leave from the end of this month. Svenja joined us at the beginning of 2019 and has quickly become an enormously valued member of our teaching team. Thank you, Svenja, for being such a kind and professional colleague, and for your warm guidance of the Class 2 tamariki. We wish you well as you are beginning a new chapter in your life!

A major change for all of us, of course, is the current period of the nationwide Level 4 rāhui. The teachers at Te Rāwhiti and Te Rā have been looking at ways to meet the many challenges and questions that have arisen. One of those is the *Bubble Living Guidebook* website, which school teachers have developed for whānau with children in classes 1 to 7. You find more information further below in this newsletter.

We acknowledge that we are all learning and trying to deal with an unusual situation, and we have appreciated all the support and feedback from our parent community. And we very much hope to see you all again in person in the near future!

Ngā mihi mahana nā

David Nicoll & Kerstin Wagner

Timeline for Covid-19 related information

Following yesterday's announcement about the new Level 3 guidelines by Jacinda Ardern, many of you may wonder what exactly this will mean for your whānau, for your children, and for our kindergarten and school. Our answer is: we don't quite know either – yet!

We do know that government will make another announcement on **Monday 20 April**. While this announcement will give a general picture, kindergartens and schools will be specifically guided by subsequently published information from the Ministry of Education. We should receive a communication from the MoE by Monday evening. This will guide our decision making about how to move forward. Based on this, we hope to be able to let you know exactly what will be happening at Te Rāwhiti and Te Rā in the weeks that follow by the end of **Tuesday 21 April**.

Haere rā Karla kōrua ko Vincent

We had to bid an early good-bye to our volunteers Karla and Vincent, who were able to catch one of the last flights home to Germany on Easter Saturday. Nicki managed to farewell them with our traditional gift of a pounamu necklace (see below) before the lockdown, and then Elien took them for an essential (!) road trip to Auckland airport. They both loved their time at Te Rā and know they will be missed by everyone - there is an open invitation for them to visit us again!

Haere rā kōrua! All of Te Rāwhiti and Te Rā are sending their blessings!



Getting the school ready again – helping hands wanted!

By the end of the Level 4 rāhui, our school grounds and buildings will have just had nature for company: wind, rain, sun, spiders, wetas and all their friends, bees and birds, and most likely some four legged creatures that like to appear when humans are gone ...

Once staff are allowed back at school, Emile will be working hard to get everything organized again! Without our hard-working volunteers this is a daunting task, so Emile is doing a shout-out to the community for anyone who would have the capacity to help out, come the end of the official lockout.

If you are able to help Emile once school grounds can be accessed again, please contact Emile on 021 234 7965 or email him on emilev@tera.school.nz

Class 2 Appointment

While Svenja is on maternity leave, Buck Campbell will take her place as teacher of our Class 2. Buck is a Beginning Teacher from Paekakariki and we are very pleased to welcome him onto our team. Buck will be supported and mentored in this role by Deirdre Reid, an experienced class teacher who has relieved and taught at Te Rā in a number of capacities over the past few years.



Bringing our Bubbles together – invitation to participate!

Te Rā teachers are inviting whānau to be part of a flexible, whole-school project to contribute to the creation of a *Guide to Bubble-Living*.

All of this is, of course, optional and voluntary!

Te Rā - Bubble Living Guidebook

Welcome to our Stay at Home Learning site.

The teachers at Te Rā have conjured up a great idea to create a Bubble Living Guidebook. You will be documenting life during this stay at home period, using a range of creative projects that you can pick and choose from.

Activities can be accessed via this user friendly [Bubble Living website](#) or through a pdf file that was attached to yesterday's email (for printing, if this is what you prefer). Please contact your child's class teacher to re-send this electronic copy if you can't find it in your inbox.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

There are many kinds of types activities, suitable for different class levels, to choose from. There is also an *Inspiration Station* with a selection of creative ideas.

Children are invited to create a contribution that can be photographed to be shared with others. Please email photographs that you would like

to share via the website with our Te Rā community in the spirit of celebration to your child's class teacher.

If you would prefer not to share images electronically but would still like your child to be able to contribute to the finished guide, this will be possible once we can return to school. Please keep hard copies of photos, or actual work if that is possible, to share in an exhibition later!



Inspiration Station Ideas

Optional extras for those you'd love to explore some Stay Home Creativity. The overview of the inspirations are below. Completed assignments from the Inspiration Station can be used to add to our *Bubble Living Guidebook*.

			
Fabulous Photography	Fantastic Feijoas	Ideal Stay Home House	Sketch your house
Polish your lens and get snapping. Choose three of your best photos of your Stay Home Time. This might	Find a fejoia recipe to use up some of your abundant fruit. Come up with a new name for this recipe	Design your ideal Stay Home house. Describe it in writing, with each paragraph talking of a	Give others a view into your Stay Home Bubble. Your drawing or sketch can be of the outside of your

As this is not a competition and simply an opportunity for children to share experiences, we suggest that contributions are unnamed and do not include photos of individual students.

MINDFUL USE OF TECHNOLOGY

It is part of our Waldorf school kaupapa that we encourage children to have minimal exposure to digital technology. However, while we cannot be physically in contact, electronic communication has become an important tool for all of us. We trust that through careful, selective use of digital technology in our homes we can model its responsible and sensible, purposeful use.

On the same note, we are kindly asking that the website is kept within the Te Rā community bubble and that privacy is respected by not posting links of the site on social media.

We wish you all the best for the coming weeks and sincerely hope that the *Guide to Bubble-Living* project meets your whānau's needs and provides the inspiration to share the wonderful experiences and amazing ideas that have come from living in your bubbles.

Thank you all for helping create such a wonderful community.

From the Te Rā School Teachers

From the (Home) Office

Hi everyone! I hope you are all okay and coping with the unusual situation we are in at the moment!

Before the lockdown I unplugged all my school reception equipment and relocated everything I needed to home here in Paremata. Now that the school holidays are over, I'm back working my normal reception hours of 8:30am-3:30pm. I'm receiving the office emails as usual and checking the school cellphone and landlines for any messages. If you want to contact me for anything at all, please do.



Take care and hopefully we will catch up in real life again before too long.

Warmest regards

Maxine

From the Remote Working Finance Team

Hi all, Tonia and Rhonda have also unplugged everything from our office, grabbed as much paperwork as we could manage and have set up our home offices to work remotely.

DONATION RECEIPTS FOR YOUR TAX CLAIM 2019/2020

If you paid any of your Special Character Contribution directly into the Kapiti Waldorf Trust bank account prior to us switching these payments to Kindo, you will have received a receipt yesterday for this payment from Tonia.

Those of you who made Special Character Contribution payments to Kindo will have received a direct receipt from Kindo, issued at the time of each payment.

Unfortunately, Kindo is not able to provide us with a summary receipt at the moment. To get your full year of receipts, please log into [Kindo](#) and choose MY ORDERS. You are able to print your receipts from

there. I suggest searching your emails for receipts from The Growth Collective.

Looking ahead, Kindo have advised us that they will have a summary receipt in place for payments from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021, so this will be the only time you will have to do it in this rather roundabout way.

If you have any queries regarding your receipts, please email Tonia at finance@tera.school.nz. We are both clearing emails regularly.

Rhonda & Tonia

Diary of Dates

26 March	<i>Alert Level 4 commenced</i>
28 March	<i>School holidays started</i>
10 – 14 April	<i>Easter break, including the Tuesday after Easter</i>
15 April	<i>Term 2 begins (distance learning)</i>
20 April	Government decision re poss. alert level changes
22 April	Current date for end of lockdown period
27 April	ANZAC Day observed
28 April	Teacher Only Day

ALL OF THE FOLLOWING DATES ARE TENTATIVE ONLY:

Mon 18 May	Raphael House Upper School Information Evening at Te Rā School, 7:00pm-8:00pm
Tues 26 May	Traditional Māori Games - Otaki (Year 5/6)
Thurs 28 May	<i>PP Date Traditional Māori Games</i>
Mon 1 June	Queen's Birthday Holiday
Tues 2 June	Teacher Development Day (No school/kindy/nursery/playgroup)
Wed 10 June (Years 4-8)	Interschool Cross Country – Waikanae Park
Thurs 11 June	<i>PP Date - Interschool Cross Country</i>
Sat 20 June	Working Bee 9:00am-4:00pm
Thurs 25 June	St John Lantern Festival School (5:30-7:00pm)
Tues 30 June qualified),	Regional Cross Country (for those Upper Hutt
Thurs 2 July	<i>PP Date - Regional Cross Country</i>
Fri 3 July	Last Day Term 2

***** SCHOOL HOLIDAYS *****

Mon 20 July

Sunday 5 July

Mon 27 July

Wed 12 August

Fri 14 August

Mon 24 August

Sat 29 August

Wed 16 September

Fri 18 September

Fri 25 Sept

Fri 25 Sept

First Day Term 3

Matariki Celebration at School, 6am

Class 2 Whānau Hui, 7:00-9:00pm

Junior Winter Tournament (Yr 5/6)

PP Date Junior Winter Tournament

Teacher Development Day

(No school/kindy/nursery/playgroup)

Working Bee 9:00am-4:00pm

Senior Winter Tournament

PP Date Senior Winter Tournament

Games Day for School

Last Day Term 3

***** SCHOOL HOLIDAYS *****

Mon 12 October

Wed 14 October

Sat 17 October

Tues 20 October

Tues 20 October

Thurs 22 October

Mon 26 October

Fri 30 October

Saturday 31 October

Mon-Fri 16-20 Nov

Fri 20 November

Mon 23 November

Sat 28 November

Fri 4 December

Tues 15 December

Wed 16 December

First Day Term 4

School & Kindergarten Photo Day

Working Bee 9:00am-4:00pm

Class 2 Whānau Hui 5:00-7:00pm

Interschool Mountain Biking (Yr 5-8)

PP Date Interschool Mountain Biking

Labour Day Holiday

Early 1pm Finish

(School & Kindergartens)

Open Day 11:00am-2:00pm

Class 5 Olympic Camp - Ngaruawahia

Kapa Haka Fundraiser Evening

Teacher Development Day

(No school/kindy/nursery/playgroup)

Advent Wreath Making – School Hall

Kāpiti Kapa Haka Festival

Last Day for Kindergarten for 2020

Last Day for School (early Finish)