



# NEWSLETTER



Kia ora e te whānau,

What a great start we have had to term Four. This term has some significant topics for us to thoughtfully respond to. Please read the sections of our newsletter to begin conversations of your own.

**Curriculum changes** and consideration have dominated some thinking for us to start our term. There is plenty of information in the media around expectations for the teaching profession. Our teaching role is to keep your children and you at the heart of what we do and why we do it. We want the learning experiences your children receive to respond best to our community. As a staff we are talking through what we do, what is working well and how we might continue to strengthen our great teaching.

We are confident in the way we use structured literacy, alongside rich and interesting reading and writing programmes. We are reassured that the suggestions from the Ministry of Education regarding our maths programmes allow us to know that what we already do has strength, is knowledge and strategy based, is ordered and has meaningful purpose. Selecting a resource to work alongside our programmes will be one way for us to consolidate learning.

**Sandpit lessons**—this week began with our sandpit finally being opened with a ribbon cutting, a list of agreed rules, some digging and a waiata. We are excited to see this being used every day. I learnt the power of patience, as good things take time. I appreciated the enthusiasm and encouragement of others for creating and building. I am reminded that the joy of sand on hands and feet are simple but awesome pleasures. I grin watching the fun each person has in sand.

**Te Ahu o te Reo Māori** graduation—congratulations to our teachers who graduated from their language learning this year. You are awesome! Your learning transforms our kura and inspires us to continue to protect the taonga that Te Reo Māori is.

**Staff Only day**—remember to keep your tamariki home on Tuesday as the staff gather to explore aspects of our history. We will be exploring some of the people and the nature of this place in times past.

Thank you for the richness of our diversity, the conversations we have and what we learn from each other.

Have a restful long weekend.

Ngā mihi nui,  
Whaea Nicki  
Tumuaki | Principal

## Important dates

- **Monday 28th October** - Public Holiday
- **Tuesday 29th October** - Staff Only Day
- **CORRECTION: Monday 16th December (half day)** - Last day of Term 4
- **Wednesday 5th February** - Meet the teachers (more details to come)
- **Thursday 6th February** - Waitangi Day
- **Friday 7th February** - First day back for 2025

## Welcome to our new students

- Ariella Chait
- Bella Huggan
- Florrie Mountier
- Josiah Ioapo
- Mackenzie Clark
- Hazel Howarth
- Pounamu Raukawa
- Nyla Vailoa
- Mitansh Patel
- Kian Washbourne

## Attendance

It is really important that all children attend school every day unless they are sick. Every day attendance increases learning.

**If your child is going to be away please call or email us.**



04 389 6667



away@newtown.school.nz



# IN THIS ISSUE

SCHOOL NOTICES  
BOARD UPDATE  
TE TIRITI O WAITANGI  
STAFF SPOTLIGHT  
OUT AND ABOUT  
AROUND OUR KURA  
SPORTS NEWS  
EXHIBITION WALL  
AROUND OUR COMMUNITY

## School Notices



### REMINDER

### SCHOOL CLOSED

**MONDAY 28TH OCTOBER & TUESDAY 29TH OCTOBER**

Newtown School will be closed for Labour Day on Monday 28th October and for Staff Only Day on Tuesday 29th October.

We'll see everyone on Wednesday 30th October.  
Happy long weekend!

**2025**

Please remember to advise us of any younger siblings or friends wanting to start at Newtown School in 2025. This is essential for our staffing planning and funding.

Keep an eye out for more information about a practice emergency pick up drill coming up soon. This is a planned exercise to prepare our school for the process of reuniting students with their families following an emergency.



### SUNHATS

**Sunhats are to be worn  
everyday in the playground  
during Term 4**

**No hat , no play!**

**Remember to pack a hat each day  
or why not have your child keep  
their hat in their tote tray for  
school only.**



A friendly reminder to  
please advise the school  
of any absence by 9am

Call **04 389 6667** or email **AWAY@NEWTOWN.SCHOOL.NZ**

KIA MANAAKI  
RESPECTFUL

Ka whakamana tātou i ngā rongo o te katoa.  
We value the thoughts and feelings of each other.



# Board Update

October 24 2024

Kia ora koutou,

At this week's hui the Board of Trustees met and worked through a busy agenda. Some of the things we discussed were the school's use of restorative practice to create positive behaviour and upcoming curriculum changes that have been announced by the government.

We heard how the school works hard to create positive behaviour change through building, maintaining, restoring and sustaining relationships. We heard that behaviours have restorative consequences at the kura and that this is taken very seriously.

There was a lot of material to support and describe restorative practice and we agreed that there will be a future session for the wider community to learn and ask questions.

We also discussed the curriculum changes coming to the kura next year. Plans for structured literacy across the school build on work that was started over 2 years ago. We heard that the school has looked at the planned maths changes and feel comfortable with them. We noted that there is still detail to come from the Ministry particularly around Māori medium learning and resources.

We heard that the kura is working hard to review the changes to assessment and reporting requirements. These will be in place for next year.

Finally as a board successfully running a co-governance structure we encourage you to read about the plans for the upcoming hīkoi in support of strong, meaningful partnership in this newsletter.

Nga mihi nui,

Joe and Nick  
Co-chairs



## Diwali family celebration

Ngā Puna Waiora **Newtown Library**

**Wednesday 30 October 3.15pm - 4.30pm**

Come and join in the activities, dance to the music and enjoy some authentic Indian food. No cost.

Nau mai rā tātou katoa  
Everybody is welcome.

[wcl.govt.nz](http://wcl.govt.nz)

Wellington  
City Libraries

Absolutely Positively  
Wellington City Council  
We have the Power



## We support Te Tiriti o Waitangi

Te Tiriti in action is something that we reflect on regularly across our governance, leadership and within each of the akomanga. Outside of kura, we acknowledge that this will look different for each whānau and our communities. **I believe** this is crucial to our belonging in this land and working together. We are fortunate to be in a community that seeks to do this better. It takes thinking, consideration, reading, talking with each other and change.

**As a kura** we are committed to Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

**As a Board of Trustees** we are committed to Te Tiriti o Waitangi, demonstrated by actions such as moving to a co-governance model.

**As educators** our first professional standard is to understand and recognise the unique status of tangata whenua in Aotearoa New Zealand and to acknowledge the histories, heritages, languages and cultures of partners of Te Tiriti o Waitangi. All our kaiako are on this journey to deepen what this means and take action.

**As part of this community** our responsibility is that all learners equitably achieve and succeed as tangata whenua and tangata tiriti. We recognise and respect the rangatiratanga and mana motuhake of Māori. In partnership we will re-indigenise and decolonise the educational experience.

On 19th of November there is a hīkoi planned which will bring people from across Aotearoa into Te Whanganui a Tara. The timing is aligned closely to when it is anticipated that the Treaty Principles Bill is introduced into Parliament.

### Take time to:

- notice something new in our school grounds
- think about what you know about Te Tiriti o Waitangi and talk about this with your family
- explore Together for Te Tiriti

We will send out more information closer to the time of the 'hīkoi' arrival, however we want to indicate early that we will be exploring how we can support releasing staff who want to attend and supporting whānau who wish to be taking part in this.

Many thanks for your interest and commitment.

**KIA MANAHAU RESILIENT** E hia hinganga, katū tonu, ka ako tonu  
We keep trying and learn from what we do

# Staff Awesomeness

A shout out to all our staff who graduated from Te Ahu o te Reo Māori. You are awesome! Your learning transforms our kura and inspires us to continue to protect the taonga that Te Reo Māori is.



## Staff Spotlight Meet Linda

Kia ora koutou  
Ko Linda ahau

I am teaching, alongside Sarah, the energetic and fun English Language Learners from across the school.

I have come full circle as Newtown School provided me with my first teaching job many years ago. A lot has changed!! I left Newtown School to travel and returned to Wellington 30 years ago where my husband and I raised our two children.

During this time I set up an English language business and a raw juicing business as well as teaching foreign high school students and migrants wishing to find work in New Zealand.

I have also worked as a recruiter in education and health for a number of years before heading into project management roles at Wellington Hospital and Massey University.

So ..... back to the present .... what a joy it is to be around laughing, boisterous and happy students who are keen to learn. I love it.

Outside of work I enjoy making the most of what Wellington has to offer on the nature front, love cooking up a storm for whoever wants to come and join us and saving up to visit our adult children who both live in Australia.



*Visiting my children in Victoria*

KIA NGĀKAU HIHIRI CURIOUS Ka miharo, ka tūpono, ka auaha tātou.  
We wonder, take risks and innovate



# Out & About

Check out these inspiring outings

Mātāwaka went on a trip to Wharewaka.

There a kōrero hītori was delivered about the mana whenua Atiawa, Taranaki Whanui the meaning of the Raukura.



We also visited Rongomaraeroa the marae at Te Papa and talked about all the stories held within the whare Te Hono ki Hawaiki.

Huarewa went on a walk up to Matairangi to practice our mōteatea Noho Ake Au, which talks to the significant land marks and their stories here in Te Whanganui a Tara.



## Around our kura

Check out our sandpit's grand opening!

We are super excited to finally open our new sandpit this week. This has been a long term project we have been planning for many years. It is so great to see all the children enjoying this new space in our kura.



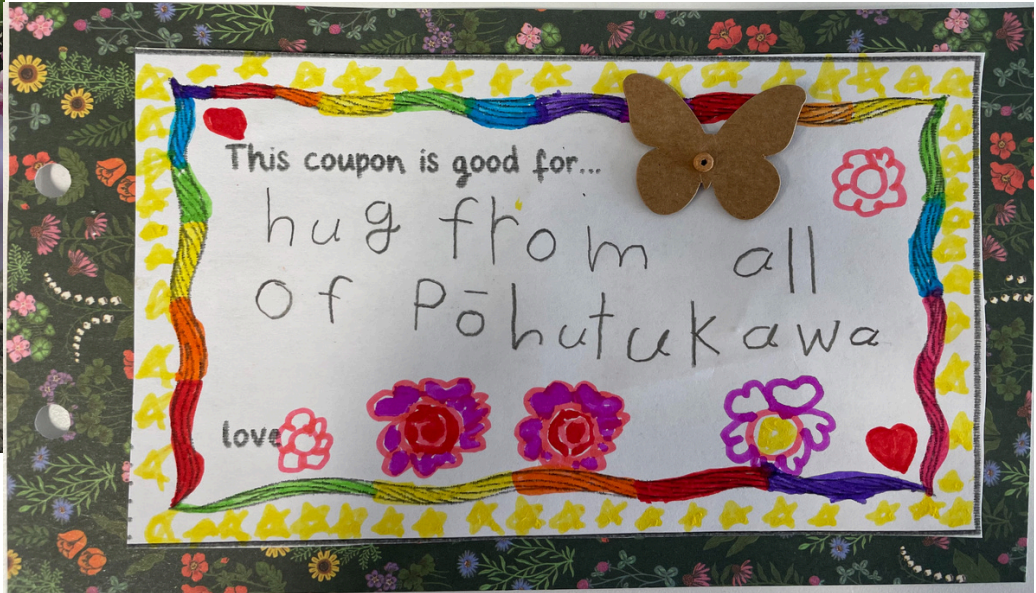
KIA WHAKAPAU KAHA EFFORT Ka whakapua i ō tātou kaha i ā tātou mahi katoa. We give our best in everything we do.



# Around our kura



What a treat to receive some flowers AND a book of vouchers. It's great to feel appreciated and I can't wait to join the Wednesday Art Club, watch a play in Harakeke, join whakatau Mauri, play Duck Duck Goose with Pōhutukawa, wakawaka for Garden to Table, get hugs from Waitangi and what on earth is a Tūi Squeeze Box I wonder?



## Welcoming a visitor

What a pleasure to welcome our visitor Ron this week. He shared his stories of Newtown School when he used to be here...many years ago (He is 94 years old).

We learned about playing with marbles and spinning tops, the impact of polio, how he wrote with a slate, drinking milk delivered by a draft horse, reading old journals and about his little cottage in Mein Street, just across the road in the hospital car park.

Our favourite stories perhaps were the ones about teachers. The teacher who fell through a chair as she stood on it to sing a song. Oops. The teacher who kept a coiled up strap on her desk beside her. If you were talking or interrupting her, she would throw the strap right at you. Our students asked excellent respectful questions to keep Ron talking and remembering.

We thought it was time to stop when he was asked how many girlfriends he had to which he replied 'A few but my favourite one I married.' Thanks for visiting Ron. We all have our memories will be as good when we get to 94.





# Sports

## FUTSAL

Futsal League at the Ākau Tangi Sports Centre - Fridays

The draw's have now been finalised and are on the Capital Futsal website:

<https://capitalfutsal.org.nz/junior-and-youth/akau-tangi-sports-centre-primary-school-league-year-1-6>

There are NO games for any grade on Friday 1st November, all grades finish on Friday 6th December.

There is a whatsapp group for families to sign up to. Ask one of the parents at the sports centre.

## MINI POLO

Mini polo players needed!

We have 2 teams playing on a Friday afternoon at Kilbirnie Pool. We are seeking more Year 4-6 players.

Contact Cole if interested at [sports@newtown.school.nz](mailto:sports@newtown.school.nz)

## JUNIOR NETBALL

Netball at EBIS - Saturdays

Draws & results can be found on the Motu Kairangi Netball website: <https://www.sporty.co.nz/mknetball/Draws-Results/tab1>  
and weather updates on the Motu Kairangi Netball Facebook page: [https://www.facebook.com/mknetball?ref=embed\\_page](https://www.facebook.com/mknetball?ref=embed_page)

## LANCE WILLIAMS' \$250 PRIMARY SCHOOL SPORTS SCHOLARSHIP

Ray White

Lance Williams  
Real Estate Team

### And so it continues...

Lance Williams, your local Real Estate Agent will be celebrating the season of giving by continuing his initiative of gifting a \$250 sports scholarship for every house he has sold during 2024.

### This year...

Lance and his team have sold **15** houses so far this year and counting. This means that at least **15** lucky kids will be gifted **\$250 each** to go towards the sport that they love.

### How to apply:

Parents all you need to do is tell us how a scholarship would help your child.

Send Lance an email at - [L.williams@raywhite.com](mailto:L.williams@raywhite.com) by

Friday 8th November at 5:00pm - Easy!

KIA NGAKAU HIHIRI CURIOUS Ka miharo, ka tūpono, ka auaaha tātou.  
We wonder, take risks and innovate

# Paul Forrest & Exhibition Wall



## 'How we see it'

by Milla Ray Robertson and Moira Schneider

Wed 30th October - Mon 18th of November

The Newtown School exhibition wall

Next Wednesday Newtown school celebrate a new showing on the exhibition wall by Milla and Moira from Whanau Waitangi. For the next 3 weeks the Newtown School Whanau can view a stunning series of artworks that take a look through the eyes of two of our hardest working artists. They always surprise and delight with their creative vision.

"Come and have a look and support their mahi. Yet another great exhibition I recommend you check it out on 'The Exhibition Wall' at Newtown School" says art wall curator Paul Forrest

## SATURDAY 2nd November 2-3pm

Our drawing tutor Paul Forrest will take you for a wander up the hill to learn a bit of Newtown's history, how trees grow, and support butterflies and other biodiversity. Meet at the Southern end of Owen Street, Newtown, beside the former Workingmen's Bowling Club entrance.

<https://wellingtonheritagefestival.co.nz/event/bring-back-the-natives-green-belt-newtown>



## WEDNESDAY 6th November 7.15pm

Paul Forrest's 2nd talk, a public time travel talk about the history of our hill, our Maunga, in Newtown as part of Wellington Heritage week takes place at the Newtown Community Centre, cnr Colombo and Rintoul Street as part of Wellington Heritage week.

<https://wellingtonheritagefestival.co.nz/event/newtowns-flora-fauna-land-and-waterways>

KIA WHAKAPAU KAHA  
EFFORT

Ka whakapua i ō tātou kaha i ā tātou mahi katoa.  
We give our best in everything we do.