



NEWSLETTER



Kia ora e te whānau,

This fortnight has a couple of stand out moments..

Kapa Haka festival

I may be biased but our tamariki were outstanding at our kāhui festival event on Thursday! Local schools shared a performance each-with confidence, strength and some nerves. What a privilege to be part of. We give a huge thank you to Maraia and Lily who organised this whole event and also to Danielle and Venise for their support and encouragement for our own Kapa Haka. We are fortunate to have such talented people in our kura. What a delight also to see ex pupils at SWIS and Wellington High-it's a reminder of how connected we all are. The success of our ākonga is exceptional.

Board nominations

How exciting that we have nine nominations for our Board of Trustees! At a time when the media is telling us there is very little interest by parents to be part of Boards, our kura tells a different story. Take time to read the descriptions of ways they want to contribute to our community, coming out in the next few days. We are fortunate to have such a wealth of skills and diversity of people.

Progress and Achievement

We have had a great turn out of conversations with parents in the last few weeks. There is a competition to see which whānau can reach 100% turn-out for talking with each family. These conversations were a chance to hear where in their learning teachers think your child is working, to share some samples of work or assessment and a time to name some of the next learning ahead.

You won't have seen this information in the learning record in mid year as schools across the country are in a time of change. Schools have previously been using curriculum levels which each cover two years progress. Now it will be reported against year levels.

Currently under review by the Ministry of Education is the language we will use to describe where a child is working in comparison to their year level. These will likely be similar to 'needs support, progressing towards, consolidating, proficient, exceeding'. Newtown School chose not to include these in the mid-year learning recording to avoid confusion with multiple changes. However, we expect these descriptors will be confirmed by the Ministry before the end of the year report.

In the meantime, be reassured that all teachers at our kura know your child, what their strengths are, what challenges they have and the sequence of learning needed for each ākonga. We regularly work together to make sure this is so. If you have any questions about this, do come and ask me.

Paid Union Meeting coming up...Tuesday 19th August see details below..

Ngā mihi nui,

Whaea Nicki
Tumuaki | Principal

WHANAUNGATANGA
CONNECTED

He iwi tahi tātou, he ako tahi tātou
We belong and we learn together

Important dates

- **15 August** - Staff Only Day
- (SCHOOL CLOSED)
- **19 August** - Paid Union Meeting
- **10 September** - Board Voting Closes
- **19 September** - Last day of Term 3
- **6 October** - First day of Term 4
- **27 October** - Labour Day Public Holiday (SCHOOL CLOSED)
- **28 October** - Staff Only Day (SCHOOL CLOSED)
- **21 November** - Staff Only Day (SCHOOL CLOSED)
- **19 December** - 1pm finish - Last day of Term 4
- **3 February 2026** - Whakawhanaunga
- **4 February 2026** - First day of Term

Welcome to our new students

- *Gawnur Fasco*
- *Akansha Chand*
- *Lasi Atelipa*
- *Haset Fenta*
- *Baltazar Bazilevskii*

ARRIVAL TIME AT SCHOOL

How your child starts the day is important. Being at school in time to start the day with their classmates and teachers sets them up for a positive day of learning.

Please aim to have your students at school by 8:40am ready in class by 8.55am.

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

School Notices



Stop & Drop Zone

Stop & Drop at Newtown School is working!

This has been very popular and super successful already, with lots of positive feedback from parents.

Stop & Drop operates in **Mein Street** from 8:30am until 9:00am.

Parents are invited to pull into the space and drop off their children. Families with younger children are invited to pull up at the front of the queue.

We will ensure they make it safely into school.



SCHOOL

Comments heard in our kura in the last fortnight

Village at the park organiser:

"We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude on behalf of our Village at the Park community for your wonderful contribution during the Matariki festivities. It was truly special to have your students join us, interact with our residents, and celebrate Matariki in such a meaningful way. Our residents thoroughly enjoyed the intergenerational connection, and your students' visit was the highlight of one of our most cherished events. Their presence brought joy, warmth, and sense of togetherness that beautifully reflected the spirit of Matariki."

A literacy provider who works with many schools:

"I loved working with your team – they are smart, reflective and very positive. I also loved the way you as Principal, learned alongside your team during the workshops- what a fantastic example"

A new whānau to our school:

"We knew when we walked through the gates that this was the place for us. As we walked through the playground we were greeted, smiled at and walked with company to the office. Although we have visited other schools, the warmth and welcome here made us feel like we had arrived to a family."

A new Māori social worker meeting us for the first time:

"I thought you were a kura kaupapa. Everywhere I looked I saw your story and there were so many people speaking Te Reo."



NZEI ACTION PAID UNION MEETING

Tuesday 19th August

We will be open for supervision from 1.30pm onwards. If you are able to make alternative arrangements for your child to be collected we really appreciate your support in doing so.



School Photos are available to purchase!

To view and order your photographs:

1. Go to our website at <https://www.inspirephotocart.co.nz>
2. Enter this access code in the box: newt4b75

Whānau Maths Afternoon



Come in and see what maths looks like at our kura! Sausage sizzle and spot prizes.

3:30–5:00pm 13th August

Attendance Winners

These two students have been at school over 90% this term and have been randomly selected to receive a prize this fortnight.

Azaria & Waleed

Come pick up your prizes from the office!



Key dates coming up for sport:

- Wednesday 20 August – Miniball Tournament
- Tuesday 2 September – Southern Zone Swimming
- Monday 8 September – Futsal Festival Jrs
- Tuesday 9 September – Futsal Festival Srs
- Pedal and Scooter Ready – 8 September until end of term.



KIA NGĀKAU HIHIRI
CURIOUS

Ka miharo, ka tūpono, ka auaha tātou.
We wonder, take risks and innovate

2025 School Board Parent Elections Parent Candidates

Introducing our 2025 Newtown School Board Parent Candidates.
With nominations now closed, voting papers will soon be sent to you electronically, unless you have opted for a postal vote. At this time you will also receive the candidates' statements. Details on opportunities to meet with the candidates will be shared soon.



Amro Gamal



Josephine Beaumont



Paul Wilson



Chantelle Samules



Nadia Abu-Shanab



Robbie Neilson



Fatima Amin Sheikh



Naomi Taylor



Trey Tanuvasa

Garden Goodness

Whats been happening in our school gardens?

Piwakawaka students went through 2 rubbish bins and discovered that only 10% was actually rubbish! The rest was recycling and food scraps. Looks like we need to do better.

Big thanks to the Heritage crops food research trust in whanganui donated two heritage apple trees that Waitangi gardeners planted and protected.

Thanks also to Don Watson from Watsons Garden for some vegetable seedlings that Ngati Kotahitanga ākonga planted.



Notices

ARTSPLASH CHOIR

The fabulous Artsplash Choir are performing at the Michael Fowler Centre on Tuesday 26th August at 5pm. The 35 students involved have been practising hard and almost know all the nine songs off by heart. If one of your tamariki is a choir member please help them learn their words over the next 2 weeks.

We will be wearing black trousers/skirts/leggings plus a Newtown School PE top. (Kath will sort these out the week of the concert. Each choir member needs something 'sparkly' for the last song - a hat/scarf/bow tie etc. to pop under their seats during the performance then reveal for the last number.

If you would like to come and watch them perform please go to [Ticketmaster.co.nz](https://www.ticketmaster.co.nz).

Ngā mihi



The Newtown School Exhibition Wall

'Insects and other things' by Connor Arnold

Monday 4th August - Monday 25th August

Connor Arnold from Whānau Waitangi is one of our most talented and hard working artists at Newtown School. When you see the quality of Connor's artworks it's hard to fathom that this work was done by an 11 year old. Connor is constantly drawing and refining their skills and it really shows. It's been a delight to watch Connor excel with their creative skills and yet another example of the great creative talent we have in our midst at Newtown School. Make a point of coming along to view this very accomplished body of work on The Newtown School Exhibition Wall.

KIA MANAAKI
RESPECTFUL

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