



Adventure School

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Newsletter No 10 – 8 July 2021

Our children will discover who they can be

THE ADVENTURE WAY

We learn ... We care... We act...

Curious

Creative

Collaborative

Self-directed

Self-aware



Welcome to our new students. It's great to have you join our Adventure family!

Room 12: George Pullen

From our Principal



Kia ora koutou e te whānau

Whakataka te hau ki te uru,
Whakataka te hau ki te tonga.

Kia mākinakina ki uta,

Kia mātaratara ki tai.

E hī ake ana te atākura

He tio, he huka, he hauhu

Tihei mauri ora

In my last newsletter I waxed lyrical about how well we had done in the Covid space since lockdown. The day after that newsletter went out we were back to Level Two. What do I know!!!!!!

It shows, however, how tenuous our situation is and how constant vigilance is the only way forward until we are all vaccinated.

Other than the brief sojourn in Level Two, we have had an excellent term. We have struggled at times with getting relievers to cover sickness later in the term but I can't speak highly enough of the dedication of our teachers and the behaviour and engagement of our students during this term. We look forward to the second half of the year with great enthusiasm and anticipation.

I wish you all a happy and healthy holiday ahead of the resumption of school on the 26th July.

Political Rant - Overcrowded Schools in our Kahui Ako

Tomorrows Schools (1989) removed enrolment schemes from schools. No longer were parents required to send their children to their local schools, it was all about free choice. A little later the decile system was introduced to deliver a greater degree of funding to schools in lower socio-economic areas. The decile system thus defined some schools and communities as needy.

The combined effect of these two flawed policies was to create a "good school, poor school" perception in the minds of many parents, with decile rankings used as a very poor proxy to judge quality. The disaster this created saw the reintroduction of zones and ballots in the year 2000. The damage had already been done though, as enrolments in decile 1 - 2 schools declined and enrolments in higher decile schools climbed with some schools at 50% plus of their roll, out of zone pupils (not the fault of Boards or Principals I must add)

The Ministry still uses a formula that requires a school to carry only about 10% (it may be less) of out of zone students - irrespective of how many pupils attend the school - before it will commit to funding for new classrooms, or school infrastructure that reflects the number of students and staff in a school. The director of education (Wellington), at a recent meeting with principals, implied that schools in our Kahui Ako could not expect new buildings while there are many schools with empty classrooms in Porirua East. It is an outrageous notion that because there are empty classes in one area, schools in another area should lose their staffroom, principal's office and hall because of a lack of classroom space.

Our children, teachers and parents; our school communities, are not responsible for the flawed and divisive policies of the past, yet we are hostage to Ministry funding formulas that sustain unreasonable overcrowding in our schools. I would like any community members who feel a sense of outrage, to write to our local M.P., the Mayor, Minister of Education, P.M. whoever. Voice our concern.

The Animal School: A Fable by George Reavis.

I'll leave you with a little philosophical introspection. This is an old but worthy fable, written when George Reavis was the Assistant Superintendent of the Cincinnati Public Schools back in the 1940s!

Once upon a time the animals decided they must do something heroic to meet the problems of a "new world" so they organized a school. They had adopted an activity curriculum consisting of running, climbing, swimming and flying. To make it easier to administer the curriculum, all the animals took all the subjects.

The duck was excellent in swimming. In fact, better than his instructor. but he made only passing grades in flying and was very poor in running. Since he was slow in running, he had to stay after school and also drop swimming in order to practice running. This was kept up until his webbed feet were badly worn and he was only average in swimming. But average was acceptable so nobody worried about that, except the duck.

The rabbit started at the top of the class in running but had a nervous breakdown because of so much makeup work in swimming. The squirrel was excellent in climbing until he developed frustration in the flying class where his teacher made him start from the ground up instead of the treetop down. He also developed cramps from overexertion and then got a C in climbing and D in running.

The eagle was a problem child and was disciplined severely. In the climbing class, he beat all the others to the top of the tree but insisted on using his own way to get there.

At the end of the year, an abnormal eel that could swim exceeding well and also run, climb and fly a little had the highest average and was valedictorian.

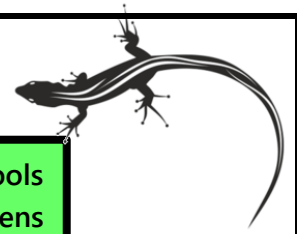
The prairie dogs stayed out of school and fought the tax levy because the administration would not add digging and burrowing to the curriculum. They apprenticed their children to a badger and later joined the groundhogs and gophers to start a successful private school.

Let ducks swim, let rabbits run, let squirrel's climb and let eagles fly.

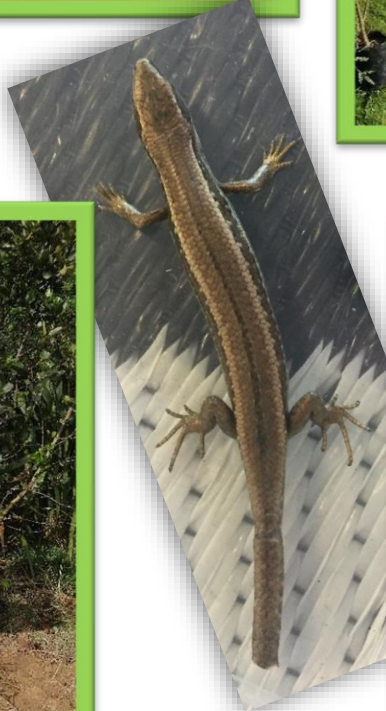
Nō reira, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa.

**John Wootton
(Principal)**

OUR LIZARD HABITAT

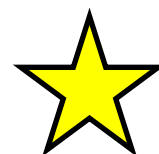


5 years ago Adventure School entered a joint venture with Enviroschools (<https://enviroschools.org.nz/regions/wellington>) and Te Rito Gardens to create a habitat that would not only beautify our school grounds but also create a habitat for lizards. Earlier in the term Amanda and Steve dropped off around 100 native plants much to the excitement of some very keen Rimu and Nikau students who have learned to weed, mulch and plant and understand the reasons each of these plants are important to this particular type of environment.





Room 21 thoroughly enjoyed our trip to the Matariki space at Te Rauparaha Arena last term. We had the whole space to ourselves and wrote our names in the stars; learnt about the Ka Mate haka and the Umu Kohukohu ceremony on a mammoth sized screen while we relaxed in bean bags; experimented with glow in the dark, flashing poi and rākau; and created beats on various sized drums. Ka mau te wēhi!



IMPORTANT REMINDER

As we have many children with severe allergies and special dietary requirements, as well as some families not in a position to supply treats to the entire class, we ask that you please do not send class birthday cakes or treats to school.

Thanks so much for your support in this matter



MUSIC MAGIC

Last Sunday afternoon the school hall was filled with beautiful music as 22 Current and Past Adventure Students from all 4 syndicates performed at the

♪♪ Piano/Flute Concert ♪♪

Congratulations for working so hard both in your lessons and at home, you all performed with such confidence - well done!!

Kowhai:

Hariet McKay
Hailey Radheesh

Nikau:

Sienna Bridge, Lilly Meachen, Theo Pilcher, Gabi Pos, Seb Pyne, Harry Squire, Mackenzie Thomas



Rimu:

Pearl Albiston, Ella Bridge, Carmelle Cohen-Ronen, Kaitlyn Foley, Jonty McMullan, Saskia Mitchell, Charlie Murray, Issy Squire

Totoro:

Noah Haran, Sam Hunt, Medeah Karashvilli

Ex-Adventure: Tyler Cooper and Lucy Wray

Catherine McCulloch Piano Tuition email: nzmccullochs@xtra.co.nz



Important Dates for Your Calendar

Please be aware some details may change



TERM TWO

Week 10	Friday 9 July	Mid-year reports sent home Final day of Term 2
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TERM THREE

Week 1	Monday 26 July	Term 3 commences
	Tues 27 – Thurs 29 July	Nikau swimming
	Friday 30 July	Mihi Whakatau
Week 2	Tues 3 – Thurs 5 August	Nikau swimming
Week 3	Tues 10 – Weds 11 August	Nikau swimming
	Tuesday 10 August	7.30: PTNi meeting. All welcome
Week 4	Monday 16 August	6.30: BOT meeting
	Friday 20 August	6.00: Disco

2021 Term Dates

Term One:	Friday 5 February – Friday 16 April
Term Two:	Monday 3 May - Friday 9 July
Term Three:	Monday 26 July - Friday 1 October
Term Four:	Monday 18 October to Thursday 16 December

School will be closed on the following days:

Waitangi Day:	Monday 8 February
Easter:	Friday 2, Monday 5 & Tuesday 6 April
Queen's Birthday:	Monday 7 June
Teacher Only Day:	Tuesday 8 June (Term 2)
Labour Day:	Monday 25 October
Teacher Only Days:	Friday 19 November & Monday 22 November (Term 4)

Community Notices

GKR Karate is running a stall with demonstrations and information at Queensgate Mall Thu 15th - Sat 17th July by H&M entrance. Receive a Free Uniform and Discounted Membership for anyone who joins during these 3 days. Weekly classes located in Titahi Bay, Whitby and Tawa. For more details, call Sensei Anthony on 027 765 3935.

Whitby's 50th Jubilee

2-4pm, Sunday 8th August, Whitby Collegiate
All welcome
Hosted by Whitby Residents' Association

Children LOVE learning how to Cartwheel, Handstand, Round-off, Handspring and Flip at BIGAIR GYM!

BIGAIR's GYMNASTICS, TRAMPOLINE, CHEERLEADING, TUMBLING & FREE RUNNING classes are excellent for fun and fitness! We focus on safety, technique, fundamental skills, right through to more advanced skills, such as summersaults and twisting. Bigair Gym is a pristine, exciting, kid friendly gym! Our experienced coaches run structured and organized fun gym classes, which follow a badge programme which creates goals and allows children to plan for success! **BOOK NOW for Term 3 Classes or Bigair's popular School Holiday Programme!** Full day or half day sessions. Keep your kids active these holidays! Spots are limited so book now on www.bigairgym.co.nz
Bigair Gym Tawa ph. 232 3508 e. office@bigairgym.co.nz @. 10 Surrey Street, Tawa.

Children Understanding Mental Health Programme

Free education/activity based programme for children aged 8 to 12 who have a member of their family experiencing mental health and or addiction concerns.

Group dates: 31 July, 7 August, 14 August.

Enrolments or for more information please contact Anne McGregor phone: 027 769 4405, email :

anne@atareira.org.nz

www.atareira.org.nz

Polyfest 2021

Friday 6th August, Te Rauparaha Arena. Doors open at 10.15am.

Adults: \$10, Child (5-12): \$5, Infants under 5: Free.

Tickets available from Ticketek or Te Rauparaha Arena

School Holiday Activities

Winter Holiday Programme @ Adventure School, 12 - 23 July 2021

BOOKINGS OPEN from Friday, 11 June! 2 weeks of popular and exciting activities await your child (e.g. Trip to Rimutaka Gym, Awesome Bounce, Laserforce, Ice Skating @ Frosty Spot, Space Place, Roller Skating Rink, Movies @ Lighthouse Cinema and much more).

BOOK ONLINE: www.asfc.co.nz or for more information e-mail holprog@asfc.co.nz or call 027-454-6975. Our opening times are 7.30 am – 5.00 / 5.30pm. We are approved for Oscar subsidies! Children from all schools are welcome 😊

AFTER SCHOOL
FUN CLUB Holiday Programme @ Adventure School

Mad for Marshmallows at Staglands

A quick message to let our school community know that Staglands yummy winter marshmallows are back!

For a limited period only, during the July School Holidays, we will be giving away marshmallows for toasting on our fire FREE to all visitors!

We will also be running our very popular, free tractor trailer rides (circumstances permitting).

Staglands Wildlife Reserve & Cafe

2362 Akatarawa Valley, RD 2, Upper Hutt, Phone +64 4 526 7529

Chill Out and Read at Porirua Libraries

With Winter here it's the perfect time to get cosy with a book these July school holidays.

Here's everything you need to know to get involved over the holidays: <https://porirualibrary.org.nz/whats-on/school-holiday-programme/>

Story, craft and activity sessions

Join the Children's Chat Group page via Porirua Library's Facebook page to keep up with updates and photos regarding the events: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/PoriruaLibraryChildrensChat>

International Culinary Studio Junior Chef Programme

Do you have an eager chef at home? International Culinary Studio provides the perfect programme to develop your child's culinary skills from the comfort of your own kitchen.

Our Junior Chef at Home programme provides children, aged 8-16, with an insight into the culinary world, developing many of the cooking, baking and technical skills they will need if they decide to turn their passion into a career.

Your child will move through this self-paced programme in around 20 hours, and enjoy regular online interaction with our Chef Instructors

<https://www.internationalculinarystudio.com/junior-chef-programme/>

July School Holidays at Nga Manu Nature Reserve

Discounted entry for the duration of the school holidays! Only \$10 for adults and \$5 for children (aged 5 - 17). Pack a picnic and come and enjoy a fun family day out in nature. At 2 pm (rain or shine) watch the Nga Manu eels being fed – purchase an eel feeding token for \$2 to have a go at feeding an eel yourself. On the weekends you can also Join our free guided forest walk at 2:15pm - meet at our eel pond after the eel feeding.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/763382101025579/>

Drawing Classes with Paul Forrest at Nga Manu Nature Reserve

14 July

Birds and Trees 10:30am – 11:45am

Plant Studies 12:30pm – 1:45pm

21 July

People and Trees in Motion 10:30am – 11:45am

Patterns in Nature 12:30pm – 2pm

Paul Forrest is a professional artist, environmentalist and educator based in Wellington. His works can be seen around the grounds of Nga Manu as well as throughout the country. Our drawing classes with Paul are designed for a parent & child or grandparent & grandchild or auntie/uncle & nibling (niece or nephew) - a great way to spend some quality time together these holidays!

PRICE:

\$35.00 for one pair, this could be a grandparent and grandchild or parent and child.

For an additional child / grandchild add \$15.00.

This fee is inclusive of materials for the drawing lesson and entry to the reserve for the day.

Full Details and Bookings via our website: <https://ngamanu.co.nz/upcoming-events/drawing-classes-with-paul-forrest/>