



Adventure School

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Newsletter No 5 – 7 April 2022

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 8: Gautham Theva Kumar, Kylie Kun, Benjamin Halson

Room 9: Carter Sachdev

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

Kei aku nui, kei aku rahi, tēnā koutou katoa i roto i ngā āhuatanga o te wā

It is great to see the restrictive signs off our gates and parents able to be in and out of the school again. Apart from a brief respite in mid-2020 it's been nearly eighteen months that whānau have been unable to move freely in and out of our grounds. Anyway, let's hope we can keep the status quo for as long as possible.

A good strategy for progress

Start where you are.
Use what you have.
Do what you can.

Arthur Ashe



"A perfect parent is a person with excellent child-rearing theories and no actual children."

Dave Barry

Work Quotes

"I like work; it fascinates me. I can sit and look at it for hours." — Jerome K. Jerome

"All I've ever wanted was an honest week's pay for an honest day's work." — Steve Martin

"Hard work never killed anybody, but why take the chance?" — Edgar Bergen

Well, while we certainly have not been in crisis mode covering Covid absences, we did have a challenging time with staff absences last week, so it was more of an irritant than anything else. It has to be said that Tania is doing a magnificent job in providing relievers wherever possible for cover, for release time or for professional development. Our teachers are doing an equally magnificent job in taking extra students when classes have had to be split.

The office has been short staffed over the last couple of weeks but Jean, Nikki and Sharon have covered for each other and have still managed to work with their normal high-end efficiency.

Our Teacher Aides have been hit hard. They do a lot of one on one and small group work with children. As it is younger children who are vulnerable to infection, junior teachers and Teacher Aides tend to be in the Covid firing line. We really notice it when our T.A.'s are away. What a wonderful job they do. Not only in taking the load off classroom teachers but the positive impact they have on the students they work with. The empathy they show, the support of classroom learning and the impact on the social development of our tamariki is a joy to watch. I think that we are very lucky to have the group of Teacher Aides that we do.

As is normal for him, our Mikaele, will put anything to one side to provide assistance to any of our staff or students even if it means extra work for him.

Reading

There has been a fair bit of blame directed at the education system for the decline in reading standards over the last ten years. Without becoming too defensive, we as a profession, have to wear a lot of the blame, after all the data doesn't lie; or does it!!!

And while controversy continues to rage over whether early instruction should focus on learning to sound out words (systematic phonics) or using the meaning of unknown words to work them out (whole language), progress in literacy is compromised.

Sadly, books have been replaced by devices - I regard my Kindle as a book and not a device - apps, gaming, Netflix and chat rooms predominate, text language has diluted real language, and acronyms and emoji's have further reduced the need to write much.

When national sporting Icons - who shall remain nameless - are heard on T.V. promoting their new app saying how great it is because and I quote, "I don't read and kids these days don't read" then we have a problem in the messaging from some of our role models.

For years it became unfashionable to teach grammatical skills and spelling in isolation as contextual and integrated approaches were favoured. Many specific skills slipped through the gaps. I'm happy to say that at Adventure School specific, targeted teaching has always been valued.

Anyway, without becoming too political I'd just like to say the more reading that can happen at home, whether it be recreational, listening to the kids read or reading to the kids, the better off they will be.

Staff Changes

Sadly, we are saying goodbye to two highly valued staff members.

Rachel Grant will leave us at the end of the term to take up a position at Karori West School and Daniel Wright has won a position at Raumati South School, starting next term in week three. In both cases, economics and family have been the deciding factors. The opportunity, to work in schools much closer to home - rather than a desire to leave Adventure - has been the major motivator.

Both will decimate travelling time; Rachel will put that saved time into her new school and personal business opportunities and Daniel as a "new" father, will be five minutes away from school so therefore much closer to home and family.

These are new and exciting opportunities for both and they go with our very best wishes.

New Staff

We are lucky to have quality teachers to fill the vacant positions in Nīkau and Rimu until the end of this year.

Emma Harris is well known to us having done a lot of great work in our school already, particularly in years 3-4, and will take over Rachel's class.

Christine Pike is an experienced teacher who has had a very positive recent history teaching with Rimu syndicate leader Donna Miles in a previous school, so this will be a good fit for Daniel's Room 18 class.

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

John Wootton
(Principal)

Face Masks



Many of our years 4-8 children are coming to school without a face mask. As our supply of spare student face masks is running very low, we would be grateful if you could please check your child(ren) still have their own mask to bring to school.

Many thanks for your support.

PTNi Page



Who, or what, is the PTNi?

The Adventure School Parent Teacher Network Incorporated (PTNi) is a committee of parents/caregivers and teachers whose purpose is to actively support the school community: the students, their families and caregivers, and teaching staff.



What We Do...

We organise and promote social activities and events on behalf of the school, such as discos, with the aim of reinforcing the sense of community around Adventure School and encouraging parents and caregivers to take an active role in their child's education. We organise various fundraising events throughout the school year, contributing much needed funds for improved resources & facilities for the school, plus the fun stuff like EOTC in the summer terms.

We meet in the staffroom **once a term at 7.30pm on a Tuesday**, usually the 2nd or 3rd week of term, and hold our AGM at the end of March. Meeting dates can be found in the school calendar and newsletters.

We welcome any new members or those that just want to pop in for an idea of who we are and what we do. If you have any fundraising/event ideas, feedback or questions, we'd love to see you at one of our meetings, or you can email us on ptni@adventure.school.nz.

Keep an eye on the school newsletters, our "Adventure School PTNi" Facebook page and the school's website for info on what we're up to.

At the end of the day, we're all part of the school community with a common goal of doing whatever we can to provide the best possible school experience for our children.

Adventure School PTNi



Tōtara Camp

Totara Syndicate felt very fortunate to get senior camp off the ground this year, given the present climate Covid, postponements and cancellations.

But stubborn determination and lots of planning saw us onto the buses and up to Makahika Outdoor Pursuits Centre in the Horowhenua. Over four days and three nights we camped out in the bush, tramped the Tararua foothills, learned lessons about bush craft and safety, waded rivers, climbed high ropes and zipped down flying foxes.

There are many people we would like to thank for helping this go ahead - our Senior Management, Board of Trustees, parent volunteers, teachers and of course, wider community. We were also very grateful to receive significant financial support from Trust House whose grant went a considerable way to subsidizing the overall cost of camp.

The following is a collection of recounts and pictures that capture something of what we got up to in Week 5.



Down by the River

Mr Kelleher lead our group down to the river for a swim. It was freezing cold but we all still went in. There was a rock that we could see in the river that we decided to jump off. Water splashed everywhere as the boys were "manu bombing" (not really) into the water.

The river was so deep most of the boys couldn't touch the rocks that lay on the bottom. As we hopped out we wrapped ourselves in nice, warm towels and headed back to camp, walking among the beautiful green grass, in the toasty warm sun.

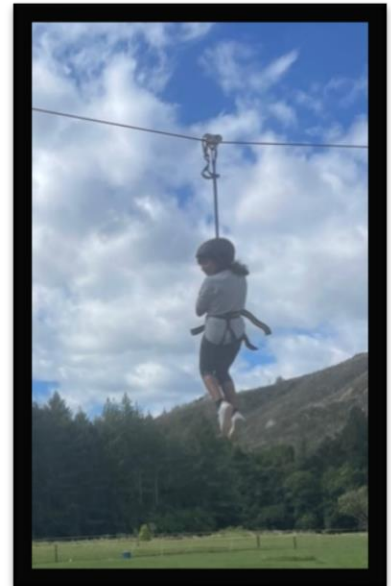
Corri Katene



Zipline

It was day two of camp and it was almost my turn on the zipline. I was so excited I almost pushed in line so I could go earlier. "Ok, are you ready?" said Etta. "Yep, let's do this." Three, two, one – WOOH! As I went down I could see my friends Carter, Kade and Alex. I waved to them and just relaxed in the harness, then I let Miss Kim slow me down and before I knew it I was walking straight back up with Ngatoa. That was one of the best experiences of my life.

Grayson Cournane



The Rope Ladder

Only three more bars to go, I tell myself. Leg, leg, arm, arm. Two bars left. My hand slips ever so slightly and I quickly readjust my grip. I know I won't fall, but I won't let go. I have to reach the top. If I let go, they will lower me down. I can't restart, don't want to restart, and refuse to restart. I lift my legs onto the next bar and force my aching arms to the top. I feel them watching me and my arms reach the final bar. Relief washes over me, and I let go.





Important Dates for Your Calendar

Please be aware some details may change



TERM ONE

Week 10	Monday 11 April	6.30: BOT Meeting
	Thursday 14 April	Final day of Term One

TERM TWO

Week 1	Monday 2 May	First day of term
Week 2	Monday 9 May	School photos 6.30: BOT Meeting
	Tuesday 17 May	World Vision Conference (Student Leaders)
Week 3	Wednesday 18 May	Learning Conversations
	Thursday 19 May	Learning Conversations
Week 4	Friday 27 May	School Cross Country (tbc)
Week 5		
Week 6	Monday 6 June	SCHOOL CLOSED for Queen's Birthday
	Friday 10 June	Kowhai Syndicate Toy Sale
Week 7		
Week 8	Friday 24 June	SCHOOL CLOSED for Matariki
Week 9		
Week 10	Thursday 7 July	Nikau Syndicate Bake Sale

2022 Term Dates

Term One:	Tuesday 8 February – Thursday 14 April
Term Two:	Monday 2 May – Friday 8 July
Term Three:	Monday 25 July – Friday 30 September
Term Four:	Monday 17 October – Tuesday 20 December

School will be closed on the following days:

Waitangi Day – observed Monday 7 February (during the holidays)
Easter – Friday 15 April – Tuesday 19 April (during the holidays)
Anzac Day – Monday 25 April (during the holidays)
Queen's Birthday – Monday 6 June
Matariki – Friday 24 June
Labour Day – Monday 24 October

Community Notices

Helen O'Grady Drama Academy Drama Classes. For over 40 years.

Our international curriculum will help explore performance skills and creativity, overcome shyness, develop positive self esteem, grow imagination, , make new friends and have lots of fun. Fun after-school classes for 5 – 17 year olds held in Khandallah, Tawa, Whitby, Lower Hutt,. To enroll or for more information please visit our <https://www.helenogrady.co.nz/>

PAREMATA PLIMMERTON Junior Rugby Registrations.

Registrations are still open online

Come & join our awesome community! All Juniors will receive a brand new top for the 2022 season and a PPRFC boot-bag to keep.

Register now, Preseason is starting, Season kicks off May 6th.

Please register online via this link

<https://www.sporty.co.nz/viewform/175373>

Big Air Gym

At Bigair Gym, the classes are structured and follow a badge programme. This quality coaching & structure creates motivated and focussed learning, which allows children to focus on goals, gain feedback, reflect, and apply this to achieve through the levels! This type of training develops confidence, resilience and a positive attitude towards personal challenges and new learning. Parents keep telling us that Bigair Gym Classes are having a positive influence on their children, and they are benefiting from learning these lifelong skills outside of the gym. So, don't miss out on this for your children! **Book online for Term 2 classes from the 4th April into GYMNASTICS, TUMBLING, FREE RUNNING (Parkour with flips), TRAMPOLINING & CHEERLEADING!**

Bookings are OPEN NOW online for Bigair Gyms active, fun & popular upcoming **April HOLIDAY PROGRAMME**. Half day & full day sessions: 8.30am-1pm or 1-5.30pm = \$30, & 8.30am – 5.30pm = \$45. We offer **BIRTHDAY PARTIES** at Bigair too, so please inquire today.

Spotlight Performing Arts - Your local Performing Arts School.

Dance, Drama and Singing for students aged 4-15 yrs old.

Led by a London West End performer!

AOTEA-JOHNSONVILLE-KARORI-LOWER HUTT-NEWTOWN-UPPER HUTT

Book your child's two-week trial for next term NOW!

www.spotlightperformingarts.co.nz

WHITBY DANCE! ENROLMENTS OPEN FOR TERM 2!

Come and join our dance community in Term 2 at WHITBY DANCE! With classes starting from as young as 2 years, we offer Ballet, Tap, Jazz, Hip Hop, Lyrical, our very own Preschool Programme and Adult classes.

For more info check out our website: <https://whitbydance.co.nz>

Or you can find us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WhitbyDanceNZ>

Contact us to enrol today.

Springboard Diving at Kilbirnie Pool

Wellington Diving Club offer diving lessons for kids aged 6yrs+ to Adult sessions!

Try something new - visit our website and register for a FREE 30min Trial Lesson in the school holidays or during Term.

After-school sessions available on Wed/Thurs and Saturdays - All levels welcome from beginners to competitive.

FREE Community Diving sessions one Sunday per month during Term. T&C's apply.

For more information, please visit our website www.wellingtondiving.org.nz or call/text Barbara on 027 485 8888.

School Holiday Activities

EASTER FAMILY FUN at North Porirua Baptist Church

Good Friday 15 April, 10am to 12pm

Arts & Crafts, Games & Challenges, Colouring Competition, Face Painting, Easter Eggs

Gold coin Koha

Come dressed in your favourite costume.

Spot prizes to be won.

Nga Manu Easter Celebration 2022

Ngā Manu Nature Reserve, 74 Ngā Manu Reserve Road, Waikanae, Kapiti Coast

Friday 15th April – Monday 18th April 10:00am – 5:00pm

Gather your family, pack a picnic, and come and celebrate Easter at Ngā Manu Nature Reserve. We have Easter eggs, children's activities and awesome daily prizes throughout the long weekend!

Full event details on our website <https://ngamanu.org.nz/upcoming-events/nga-manu-easter-celebration/> or on

Eventfinda: <https://www.eventfinda.co.nz/2022/nga-manu-easter-celebration/waikanae> or on

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1147243622704903>

Families can visit our **Easter Zone** to make a decoration to hang on our **Easter Wishing Tree**, hunt for **Ngā Manu Easter Rocks** and **Winner eggs** throughout the reserve to win chocolate eggs and prizes throughout the long weekend. It's going to be lots of fun!

As a charitable trust, your visit to Ngā Manu supports Nga Manu's wildlife and conservation programmes – thank you.

Winter Holiday Programme @ Adventure School, 18 - 29 Apr 2022

BOOKINGS OPEN Now! 2 weeks of popular and exciting activities await your child (e.g. Trip to Zealandia, Kung Fu, Southward Car Museum, Battle Hill, 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. Children from all schools are welcome 😊

AFTER SCHOOL
FUN CLUB Holiday Programme @ Adventure School

EASTER FAMILY FUN at North Porirua Baptist Church

Good Friday 15 April, 10am to 12pm

Arts & Crafts, Games & Challenges, Colouring Competition, Face Painting, Easter Eggs

Gold coin Koha

Come dressed in your favourite costume.

Spot prizes to be won.

Racketlon Holiday Programme

Once again Tawa Tennis, Tawa Squash and Wellington North Badminton are running the Racketlon holiday programme these school holidays.

Players rotate around each sport spending 1.5 hours at each club. Qualified coaches will take each session.

Please note holiday programme is for age 6 years and older.

Thursday 28 and Friday 29 April 2022, 9am - 3pm

Cost per day: \$50 or both days for \$85

Registrations: <https://bit.ly/3ICegs2>

For more information contact Babette at babette@wnba.org.nz or call 2324774

Run away and join the circus these school holidays!

Looking for something fun to do these holidays? Our school holiday programme is open for bookings. Children ages 5-15, 19-29 April 8.30am to 3pm at Wellington's Circus Hub, 11 Hutchison Road, Newtown.. Bookings can be made via www.circus.org.nz or email info@circus.org.nz

An Introductory Course to Game Programming

Whitby Collegiate will be hosting an introductory course in game programming. Students will start their journey by creating some classic games using the Pygame source library to create graphical 2D computer games. The emphasis will be on learning the techniques needed to be able to move on to computer game programming using software like Unity, Godot and Unreal Engine.

By the end of the three days the course members will have moved beyond beginner level Python programming and will have developed two games as a group. They should have the skills needed to customise these games and be able to create simple games of their own.

DATE: 27 - 29 April 2022

TIME: 9:00am - 4:30pm

VENUE: Whitby Collegiate

AGE: 10 +

COST: \$250

Students must have a laptop, a Chromebook cannot be used. Students must be able to install software on the first day of the programme - Python & PyGame.

There is an optional fee for lunch of \$10 per day - pizza or fish and chips available.

Register online here:

<https://form.jotform.com/whitbyenrol/game-programming-holiday-programme>

Chess Lovers ONLINE Holiday Program

When: 9:00am - 12:15pm

Cost: \$45

Why Join:

- Develop thinking and problem solving
- Learn great new skills
- Interactive hands-on lessons
- Experienced professional coaches
- Make friends with like-minded kids
- This program is suitable for kids who have some experience with chess

www.chesspower.co.nz

Porirua Library Holiday Programme

Digital Discovery features a range of fun STEAM activities for ages 8+, running Tuesday – Friday, 19-29 April, at various library locations. STEAM is an acronym for science, technology, engineering, arts and math. These five fields share an emphasis on innovation, arts, problem-solving, and critical thinking; they are also open to being interpreted with a lot of fun. We have online escape rooms for you to try and get out of, stop motion animation sessions to unlock your creativity, and Codey Rocky robots to program. As usual, all these events are free of charge.

Events are limited numbers and in-person. Bookings are essential for all sessions, and full details on how to do that are available here <https://porirualibrary.org.nz/whats-on/digital-discovery-sessions/> Given the changing nature of these COVID-19 times, we reserve the right to cancel at short notice if we reluctantly have to.

Staglands 50th Anniversary Treasure Hunt.

Kids can take our Treasure Hunt these school holidays to win a Golden Ticket!

Every ticket wins and there are heaps of prizes to be claimed!

To win your Golden Ticket simply download the Treasure Hunt Challenge Sheet from [our website](#). Then visit us any time between the 19th April and 1st May to take The Challenge and claim your prize!

Make sure you enter our bonus draw too and be in with a chance to win a Staglander Annual Family Pass.

Terms & Conditions apply, [see website for details](#).