



## Kōwhai Newsletter - Term Two, 2023

We cannot believe that we are already one term down for the year. This term we welcome back Mrs Di Henzell to Kōwhai. Di began our Year 0 roll growth class in 2022, and is with us again to start a roll growth class in Room 10. Rooms 8, 9 and 12 will continue with our collaboration, and Room 10 will be an independent class that will join the collaboration on Friday. We also welcome Mrs Vanessa Clark who will be teaching every Friday in Room 10. Ms Georgia will continue to teach in Room 12 most Thursdays.

Towards the end of the term, we will be celebrating Matariki. In early June, we will be sending home an activity to complete as a family and then return to school – nothing arduous!

### Learning Conversations:

In Week 3 of this term, Adventure School is holding Learning Conversations. These are an opportunity for us to tell you about your child's progress and achievement. If your child started school early Term 1, they are likely to have had a School Entry Interview already and will be having a Learning Conversation this term. If they started in the second half of Term 1, and have not yet had a School Interview, the classroom teacher will contact you to organise one. This may coincide with the Learning Conversation dates.

Please see the table below to see what your child's reporting for 2023 will look like. If you have any questions, please email your classroom teacher.

REPORTING SCHEDULE FOR YEAR 0 AND 1 2023				
When Your Child Started:	Reporting in:			
	Term 1, 2023	Term 2, 2023	Term 3, 2023	Term 4, 2023
2022	n/a	Learning Conversation	Learning Conversation	Written Report
Term 1, 2023	School Entry Interview within 7 weeks of starting school	Learning Conversation <b>or</b> School Entry Interview (determined by date of entry to school)	Learning Conversation	Written Report
Term 2, 2023	n/a	School Entry Interview within 7 weeks of starting school	Learning Conversation (or SEI)	Written Report

## *Kōwhai Teaching Team:*

In our Term 1 newsletter, we introduced our Year 0/1 teachers and we wanted to revisit this as we have had many new children and families join our syndicate.

### **Whaea Tania - Room 8 Classroom Teacher**

Hello! Some children will know me as Mrs Bailey as this is what I was known as in 2022. This year I have decided that I will be known as Whaea Tania. I am an experienced teacher and have been teaching for over 13 years. I have taught in seven schools in that time. I have taught predominantly in the junior syndicate in the last 6 years but have taught every year group from Year 0-6. I have two children that attend Adventure School - Cole (Year 5 ) and Fern (Year 2). This will be my third year teaching here with my children. I am looking forward to a fun and rewarding year with your tamariki.

### **Nadine Amorangi - Room 9 Classroom Teacher**

Kia ora whānau. I've been a teacher for over 20 years. I have taught at all levels of the school but think I've found my niche with Year 0/1 children. I am Mum to Peyton (15) who attends Aotea College and Belle (Year 7) who is at Adventure School. I live locally in Whitby and I will no doubt see you out and about. I love living in Whitby as it has such a community vibe! My husband, Travis works in Health and Safety for the NZDF in Trentham. I have two fur babies - Java, our 4 month old 'new addition' puppy and Percy, our grumpy black cat!

### **Di Henzell - Room 10 Classroom Teacher**

I am Primary and Early Childhood teacher trained, starting off my 23 year career in an English primary school. I have spent many years teaching 3-6 year olds in a local Montessori school and more recently as a New Entrant teacher at Adventure School.

I particularly enjoy working with the vibrant team of Kowhai Syndicate teachers and building relationships with the lovely children of Adventure School. I look forward to teaching your children from the beginning of term 2.

I have three grown up daughters who all thrived while attending Adventure School and are now making valuable contributions to society. I have two grandchildren, and one on the way!

### **Rebecca St Clair - Room 12 Classroom Teacher - Year 0/1 Kowhai Syndicate Leader**

I have been teaching for 14 years, and have taught from Years 0 to 6. The majority of my teaching experience has been in the junior school and I feel I am at home here! Outside of teaching, my husband Charlie is an IT consultant. I have two boys; Xavier is 9 and Bastien is 5. Xavier is in Rimu Syndicate and Bastien has just started at Adventure School in Mrs Amorangi's class.

As the Year 0/1 Syndicate Leader, I am released some weeks on a Thursday so that I can concentrate on syndicate tasks. We are very lucky to have Ms Georgia teaching in Room 12 on these days.



### **Georgia Vaughan - Room 12 Release Teacher**

I've been a teacher for 24 years. I started out as an art teacher at secondary school (which I loved). I retrained as a primary teacher when my son, Seb, was a toddler (so I could work part-time while he was growing up - he's 18 now!). Adventure School was the first primary school I worked at. I've been teaching Year 1 and 2 for the last 7 years (they're wonderful).

I've recently moved from Karori to Paekakariki - along with David (my husband), Seb and 2 dogs (Moussa and Scout). I'm a mad keen gardener and writer (one of these days I'll finish the novel I'm working on). My nephew Alex is a Year 7 at Adventure. I love being back at Adventure. The Kowhai team are a super fun and friendly bunch and have made me feel very welcome.



### **Vanessa Clark - Kowhai Release Teacher**

Hi, my name is Vanessa Clark and I love being a teacher! I've taught at Adventure School for over 15 years, where the kids are awesome! My favourite subject to teach is Art, but I also love to bake - usually with my two older daughters! I love singing and I'm currently learning the ukelele. Come and say hello to me; can't wait to meet you!!

## **We Need Your Help:**

### **Odds and Ends:**

In Learning Through Play we have lots of children who like to create and make with boxes, tubes and containers etc. We have a wheelie bin that we like to keep stocked with these items. Can you please start sending in your empty boxes and bottles. We are after things like...

- Cereal boxes
- Rolls (however no toilet paper rolls due to health and safety)
- Tissue boxes
- Muesli bar boxes
- Dishwashing liquid bottles
- Small plastic bottles with lids
- Paper

### **Tinkering:**

We would love to get some tinkering happening this term. If you have any old electronic items which are appropriate for children to take apart with screw drivers, please get in touch.

### **Parent Helpers:**

We are on the lookout for parent helpers to help with a number of things in Kōwhai. In particular, we are looking for parents who would like to work one-on-one or with small groups of children in literacy. Please email Rebecca if you think you would like to help.

[rstclair@adventure.school.nz](mailto:rstclair@adventure.school.nz)



# Learning Through Play - Term 1, 2023

As cohorts come and go through Kōwhai, it is the teachers who get to witness the strong interests and urges that groups of children possess. Without a doubt, role play is strong in our 2023 Year One cohort.

Our Term One Adventure Way focus areas were both Self-Awareness and being Self-Directed.

Being Self-Aware involves learning to manage feelings of disappointment and frustration, and taking risks. Self-Directed in Year 0 and 1 means being organised for learning, exploring possibilities in play and showing independence and initiative. Early Term 1 was all about setting up systems and routines and introducing the Adventure Way. This involved daily conversations about what Self-Directed looks like, and how to be Self-Aware.

EMERGENCY EMERGENCY – GET TO YOUR BATTLE STATIONS! For anyone walking past, Year 1 may have seen like a battlefield this past term as the children had a keen interest in exploring the concept of what they described as: "soldiers".

You can see in the photos below, the children's' strong imaginations as they set up forts, bases and battle stations to prepare for battle against their enemies – ones that they had to work as a team to defeat! Children were supported to grow their vocabulary and content knowledge which supported the extension of play.



The Room 8, 9 and 12 children are generally very Self-Directed. Most of the time, the children independently leave the mat having an idea in their head of what they want to do. The children also remain engaged in activities for sustained periods and are beginning to explore creative possibilities within the play. This has taken weeks of coaching and conversations to get to this point, and it is truly a celebration for Kowhai that we have such a wonderful group of Self-Directed children. We aim for all children to be engaged in 'rich' play, and we have no doubt that the Self-Directed trait will come up in conversation regularly in the coming months.



An exciting noticing from last term, was the keen interest in literacy and mathematics that we have across Room 8, 9 and 12. The tamariki are engaging daily in foundational literacy and mathematics activities, and this is something we are keen to expand on in Term 2.

We are fully launching into our teacher Professional Development with Helen Walls (Literacy facilitator extraordinaire) this term, and continuing with support from our Play mentor, Bevan Holloway. We are excited to grow literacy and mathematics even further in Learning Through Play and provide the children with authentic contexts in which to apply the skills developed during their explicit teaching sessions.

The Kōwhai teachers feel incredibly lucky to be able to witness growth of the Adventure Way, and the general day to day really cool things that the children get up to. Here are a few of our favourite highlights from Term 1:



*This older Year One student demonstrates to the new Year Ones how to tip the trolley. The younger students were gobsmacked!*



*After days (and weeks!) of exploration, it was an absolute privilege to witness these children work through the process of planning, problem solving, constructing and collaborating to construct swings.*





These two boys both wanted the vehicle, but there was only one. The teacher coached them through their options and questioned "what are you going to do?". After A LOT of debate, they decided they would share it.



Poster children for the Adventure Way trait: Collaboration!



### *What is the teacher's role in all of this?*

As teachers in the play, some of our roles include being:

The Vocabulary Gift Giver: Gifting vocabulary about a specific topic to strengthen a child's content knowledge.

The Social – Emotional Coach: Supporting a child/children to work their way through a problem. Not by telling the child how to solve the problem, but by supporting them to come up with the solution themselves. Coaching conversations usually revolve around the Adventure Way language.

The Door Opener: Helping the child/children to explore a new curriculum subject through media, books, making connections and talk.

Observer: Possibly a teacher's favourite part – we get to witness first hand the daily growth that children make within the Adventure Way and the NZ Curriculum. Where applicable, we use what we see to further student's learning.

Play Mate: Playing alongside children to help grow the Adventure Way and NZ Curriculum learning areas.



After years of growth, our Kōwhai teachers are highly skilled at what we do. The evidence of this is that the word is spreading - for the past three terms, we have been approached by other Wellington schools to come and see our Learning Through Play collaboration in action. Every year we continue to see our own and each other's development and we feel very lucky to be working in this collaboration. We are incredibly excited about 'where to next' for us in Kōwhai. We absolutely love what we do!

# *Kowhai and Mānuka Toy Sale:*

*26<sup>th</sup> May*



Kowhai teachers are accepting donations  
from now, up until the 25<sup>th</sup> May.

All proceeds go towards Kōwhai and Mānuka  
curriculum resources.

Thanks so much for your support!

# Reminders...

- Shared Consumables:

Items such as pencils, rulers, student whiteboard pens, erasers, craft materials, hot glue sticks and glue sticks are part of your child's shared consumable donation. This donation is \$10 per term and in order for classes to remain fully stocked on items that children use every day, we ask that this is paid promptly. Do talk to the office about payment options.

- What's in a Name?

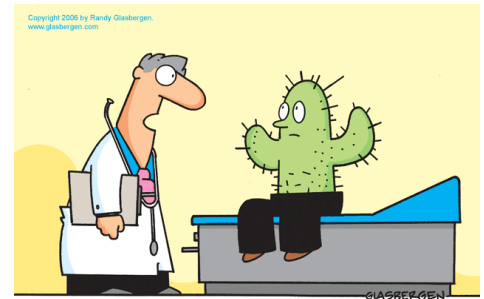
Every term the mountain of lost property grows larger and larger. Now is a really good time to check that your children's clothing, drink bottle and lunch box are still named clearly.

- Spare Clothing:

It is helpful for children to have a spare change of clothes in their bag just in case. Though we are moving into the colder months of the year, we will still take part in messy or water play.

- School Spares:

If you have any size 4-6 clothing at home which your child has grown out of, we would absolutely love donations to our spare clothing box. We are particularly in need of size 4-6 shorts and long pants.



"How many times must I remind you? *Eight glasses a day!*"

Kind regards,

Tania Sibley, Nadine Amorangi, Di Henzell and Rebecca St. Clair