



Friday 16th February 2024

Kia ora Kōwhai Whānau,

Welcome back to school!

The Kōwhai team have had a great start to the Term! We are taking the time to get to know our new tamariki and for them to get to know us.

The first few weeks are about establishing routines in each classroom, and beginning to establish the routines and expectations during the two collaborations. (Room 8 and 9, Room 13, 14 and 15). During this time, we will have one teacher with the students as they direct their own learning, while other teachers are teaching small literacy or mathematics groups in a quiet space, without distractions. Teaching and learning in this way means that we are able to keep learning groups smaller and be more targeted to individual goals. It also means that we always have kaiako available to tamariki during these collaborative sessions to provide social and emotional coaching, grow the Adventure Way traits and build New Zealand Curriculum Knowledge in tamariki.

Meet Our Kōwhai Teachers for 2024!



Back Row L to R: Tania Sibley, Vanessa Burn, Cathy Murray

Front Row L to R: Amanda-Lee Lemmon, Nadine Amorangi, Rebecca St. Clair

Whaea Tania - Room 8 Classroom Teacher

Welcome to the Room 8 Jungle Room, where we are WILD about learning. I am privileged to be your child's teacher this year and I am looking forward to getting to know them and guiding them through their first year at Adventure School. I would like to take this opportunity to formally introduce myself. I am known to the children as Whaea Tania but if you wish to email me or find me on a staff list my surname is Sibley - Ms Tania Sibley. I have been teaching for 15 years in various locations around New Zealand and taught a range of ages from Year 0 through to Year 6. I live locally and have two children who attend Adventure School; Cole is in Year 6 and Fern is in Year 3. I am a keen adventurer and will try most things once but I also find joy in the peaceful pleasures of life. I find Whitby and the greater Porirua area keeps my bucket full with both of these types of activities. I am looking forward to what 2024 may bring!



Nadine Amorangi - Room 9 Classroom Teacher

Kia ora e te 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 (16) who attends Aotea College and Belle (Year 8) who is at Adventure School. I live locally in Whitby and 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 14 month old dog and Percy, our grumpy black cat!



Rebecca St Clair - Room 10 Classroom Teacher - Year 0/1 Kōwhai Syndicate Leader

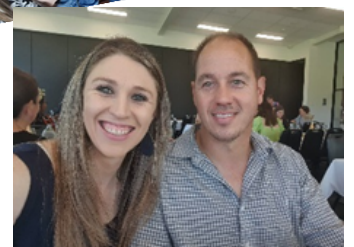
I have been teaching for 15 years, and have taught from Years 0 to 6. The majority of my teaching experience has been in the junior school, and it is definitely my favourite level. For the first half of the year, I am excited to be taking students for Literacy Intervention from both Kōwhai and Nīkau Syndicates. In the second half of the year I will be starting our 2024 New Entrant Roll Growth class in Room 10.

Outside of teaching, my husband Charlie is an IT consultant. I have two boys who attend Adventure; Xavier is 10 and Bastien is 6. We are very excited to have had a kitten named Coco join our family during the Christmas holidays.



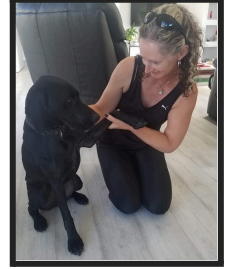
Amanda-Lee Lemmon - Room 13 Classroom Teacher

Hi there, I'm Amanda-Lee Lemmon and I am excited to be your teacher this school year. I hope that you were able to enjoy your summer and I look forward to a wonderful year of learning together. I have been teaching for over 10 years in South-Africa and for the last 2 years in New-Zealand. I live in Whitby with my husband Dean and my two boys Dian (7) and Alexander (4). We enjoy being outdoors and exploring New Zealand. We are originally from South – Africa but New Zealand is our new home.



Vanessa Burn - Room 14 Classroom Teacher - Year 1/2 Kōwhai Syndicate Leader

Hi everyone. My name is Vanessa Burn and I teach in Room 14. I have taught at Adventure School for the past 4 years (this will be my fifth). I have a daughter Chloe who is 19 (nearly 20) and has just started as a teacher aide at Adventure. My son Ryan is 16 and he is at St Patrick's College Silverstream in Year 13. We have a beautiful short haired pointer named Jewel. She keeps us very active and needs to be walked or run everyday!! I have been teaching for over 25 years. Most of my teaching has been at Paremata School. I love teaching 5, 6 and 7 year olds. I have been doing it for a long time now and it is super rewarding. I really enjoy exercising, mainly through walking and going to the gym to do yoga and pilates. I also like to bake, read, listen to music and chat to my friends. I am an active relaxer so I don't sit down too much! All of my family live in Christchurch, so I am often flying down there during the holidays to hang out with them.



Vanessa Clark - Room 14 Classroom Teacher (Release Teacher)

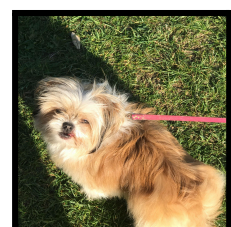
Hello everyone. My name is Vanessa Clark and I am lucky to be teaching in Room 14 on Thursdays when Ms Burn is on release. I have taught at Adventure School for over 15 years. I am married to Vaughan and have two adult daughters and a cat called Brian. I have recently moved to Paremata and I am enjoying lots of walks and bike rides around Pauatahanui Inlet. I love Art and Music and am looking forward to getting to know the awesome kids in Kōwhai better.



Cathy Murray - Room 15 Classroom Teacher

Hi there, for those who do not know me, my name is Cathy Murray and I teach in Room 15. I am married to Mike and I have 2 stepsons who are currently 21 (Aidan) and 22 (Karlin) years of age and are out in the workforce. I also have a 13 year old son, Charlie who is starting College this year. We have a small very fluffy dog named Bella who likes to bark at anything including leaves and the wind. We live in Whitby and have done so since 2013. We love to do things as a family and spend a lot of time exploring New Zealand together. A new hobby that I took up last year was adult ballet and it has proven to be a very good opportunity for me to laugh at myself!

I have been teaching for over 20 years now and I have been at Adventure School since 2013. I am really looking forward to teaching Year 2 again this year. I always wanted to be a teacher from the age of 5 and if I was not a teacher I would be an archaeologist.



The Term Ahead...

Arts Rotation:

This term we will begin an arts rotation involving visual art, drama, dance and music. All Kōwhai classes will have 3 sessions with a different Kōwhai teacher who will teach a different area of the Arts Curriculum. Sessions will be once a week on a Wednesday afternoon.

PE/Sport - Gross Motor Skills:

Each class will be participating in Gross Motor games and activities which encourage the development of basic motor skills. The games encourage skills such as jumping, hopping, skipping, heel-toe walking, side stepping.

Literacy:

Literacy in Year 1:

At Adventure School we use a structured approach to teach reading and writing. Our junior school began Structured Literacy 4 years ago and we have not looked back! Children come to school with various levels of literacy knowledge and skills, and it is our job to figure out exactly where that is and take them from there. In these first few weeks our Year 1 students will be taking part in whole class handwriting, sentence building, phonics, phonological awareness and oral language lessons as we work towards small group learning which is usually established around Week 3. Small group learning covers all aspects of literacy and is targeted to individual students' next steps.

If you have not already attended our "new parent" workshop, we highly encourage you to come along and find out more about teaching and learning in Kōwhai. This is regardless of how long your child has been at school, or how long your family has been associated with the school.

Literacy in Year 2:

As for Year 0-1, in Year 2 we continue working with children on their structured literacy journey. Throughout the year we have a whole class spelling and handwriting programme which we focus on daily, building on children's sound knowledge, blending and segmenting of sounds to form words, learning spelling rules and patterns, phonics, phonological awareness and applying these to their daily reading and writing. Working in groups is also a focus to hone in on individual needs. In Year 2 children have opportunities to build independence as authors. This develops through a lot of modelling, scaffolding and guidance.

We are incredibly lucky to have Rebecca St. Clair in a Literacy Intervention role for the first 2 terms of 2024. Rebecca will be working with small groups of children in our junior school to support them as they navigate their literacy journey. Children are being selected based on time at school, literacy progress and how students will gel within the small groups. If your child is selected, you will be notified by email.

If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of your child's learning, we encourage you to talk to your classroom teacher, Rebecca St. Clair or Vanessa Burn.

Mathematics - Statistics:

Our first Strand Maths focus in Term 1 is “**Statistical Investigations**” using the statistical enquiry cycle. During the term we will gather information about our classes by generating questions like, “What is the most common hair colour in Room ___?” and “How many children have a birthday in _____ month?” Each class will represent this data by creating pictographs, bar graphs, venn diagrams and tally charts. A key, important aspect of this learning is noticing and interpreting what the data shows them and being able to verbalise this in sentences. The children will have opportunities to:

- Organise and sort objects into groups based on similarities and differences
- Pose and answer questions
- Gather, sort, count and display data
- Discuss the results

These investigations will be predominantly led and supported by the teacher. However as the term progresses, some children in Year 2 will have the opportunity to conduct statistical investigation on their own or in a group if they have the necessary independent skills.



Things To Know...

Reporting to Parents:

If your child is a New Entrant and has started school this year, they will be having a School Entry Interview after approximately 7 weeks of school. Your child's teacher will be in contact with you in the coming weeks to set a date and time for these.

For children who started in 2023, we will be holding Learning Conversations in Term 2.



Hats and Drink Bottles:

In Terms 1 and 4 it is compulsory for our tamariki to wear an Adventure School bucket hat at all break times. It really helps if your child has a clearly named hat that can stay at school. If your child goes to After School Care or attends Kelly Sports, having a second hat in their school bag is advisable. You can purchase these bucket hats at the school office for \$13. Providing your child with a drink bottle every day is really important too. Please ensure that it is filled up at home, ready to start the day.

Parent Helpers:

We are on the lookout for parents to help with a number of things in Kōwhai. This may involve learning support, or odd tasks. Please contact Rebecca or Vanessa if you think you may be able to help. rstclair@adventure.school.nz yburn@adventure.school.nz

Shared Consumables:

Items such as pencils, student whiteboard pens, craft items and glue sticks are part of your child's shared consumable donation. This donation is \$10 per term and allows us to remain fully stocked with items children use everyday. The office will send out information as to how you can make your donation.



Kōwhai Toy Sale

Tuesday 19th March



[Please start putting aside any toys that you would like to donate - we are ready for your donations now so please bring donations to any Kōwhai teacher.](#)

All proceeds go towards Kōwhai curriculum resources. Thanks so much for your support!

We are very excited about the term and year ahead with your beautiful tamariki. If you have any questions, please feel free to email your child's class teacher or have a chat in person before school starts each morning.

Thank you for your support,

The Kōwhai Team