

THE FRIDAY FLIER

(Published fortnightly)

KOTAHITANGA

Waikato Waldorf School, Kindergartens and Play Circle



No: 09

16 June 2023

Kia ora e te whānau. Hello everyone,

I hope you are all keeping well and warm and managing to enjoy the amazing sunny days that we are being blessed with at the moment.

It's all go here at school as we ramp up preparations for next week's Matariki Winter Festival. This is a much-loved event in our school's calendar, and at the time of writing it is forecast to be a beautiful sunny day and crisp, chilly evening, just perfect for our celebrations. Please see the schedule of events and some guidelines/tips later in the flier. We look forward to seeing you and your whānau there!

On Monday of this week, parents and caregivers received an email asking for feedback on our lower school health programme. If you have not received this email, please check your spam folder and get in touch with Monika. Many thanks to those of you who have already provided feedback. We will wait for the consultation to close at the end of the upcoming term break and decide on the next steps from there. If you have asked specific questions, we will reply early next term. Your time in engaging with this consultation is valued and very much appreciated.

Finally today, some good news on the ongoing between NZEI and PPTA unions and the government. As you may have read in the press, the NZEI union has reached an agreement, however, the PPTA (Post-Primary Teachers Association) union has resumed strike action. This means Area Schools and High Schools across the country are having to continue to roster home classes on various days between now and the end of term. I know that a lot of effort is going in to reach an agreement and I sincerely hope this is reached by the time our next flier comes out.

Kia pai tō rā whakatā. Have a great weekend.

Rob

Whakatauki o te wiki:

Titoro Whakamuri Kōkiri Whakamua

Look back and reflect so you can move forward

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 20th June – Class 4 - 7 Tough Guy/Gal Challenge
- 21st June – Winter Matariki Festival @ 5.30pm**
- 22nd June – Backup date for the above
- 30th June – Last day of term—2pm finish
- 17th July - First day of term 3
- 2nd August - High School open afternoon for Cl. 6 & 7 parents

Nau mai haere mai ki te Kura o Waikato Waldorf!

Welcome to Waikato Waldorf School

- * Noah Hodges
- * Francesca Zlotkowska-Eddy
- * Iraia Tira
- * Aika Kuusi



**Mānawatia
a Matariki**

When we sit together as a faculty to discuss plans for Matariki, we reflect on the mauri (essence) of previous years' celebrations and consider what this year's theme will be. In this year of significant development for our kura, we are reflecting on some special areas around our school, their significance to us, and acknowledge those people who were involved in their creation. We also look back and give thanks. We look forward to the year ahead, the new buildings that will arrive on site and the new areas that will be created outside for our students and whanau to enjoy.

At Winter festival, we focus on the warmth and light we hold within during this period of cold and darkness. We take moments to acknowledge and appreciate the connections that we make with each other, in classes, as parents, teachers and the wider school community - our lights shine brighter together. With Matariki, it is the mauri of this life force that flows between humanity and our whenua, giving and receiving from each other in a reciprocal relationship.

With a Māori worldview, there is a lot to consider. Holding the mana of Matariki Winter festival is very important to our kura - it creates our school culture and a sense of belonging.

If you would like to know more about Matariki, there are links below as well as websites that have events on in the Waikato over the next two weeks.

<https://www.waikatoz.com/matariki/>

<https://www.matariki.com>

<https://livingbythestars.co.nz>

As an EnviroSchool, our kura was highlighted and written about in an article for all schools in Aotearoa to see. If you haven't already, please read it here: <https://enviroschools.org.nz/creating-change/stories/gathering-highlights-importance-of-belonging-at-matariki/>

Ngā mihi,

Whaea Charlotte

Matariki Winter Festival Soup!

Support Class 5 Fundraiser for Olympic Camp

Yummy Soup Available for \$5 (includes \$2 Volare bread roll)

Pumpkin, Potato & Leek and Vegetable Soup (Vegan options available)

Bring your own cup to put it in!

Send your child's cup on the day or earlier (please name or teachers can name it when it arrives).



MATARIKI WINTER FESTIVAL 21 JUNE 2023

Tips, Guidelines and Program of Events

Please note there is no after school care available on this day to allow the school to be set up.

Safety information

The elements which make our Matariki Winter festival so special – holding it at night time, in the dark, with live fire dotted around the school site – also brings additional health and safety risks.

In order to ensure everyone is able to fully enjoy the evening in a safe environment, please adhere to the following:

- No dogs or pets onsite
- Parents, please have pre-school children within an arm's length at all times.
- Keep off the grassed areas at all times, including the hill parallel to the basketball court.
- Stay off the play areas at all times.
- Remain behind the roped area at all times, and do not enter the roped area around the braziers.
- If any school alarms sound during the festival, please make your way back to the basketball court.
- If there are any accidents during the evening that need medical attention please make your way to Monika in the Whare Kai (between class 3 and 4). Alternatively, alert one of the safety marshals in high-vis vests.
- Any lost children will be taken to Monika in the Whare Kai – please collect from there.
- The toilet block next to Class 2 will be open for everyone to use on the night.

Programme of events

5.15pm – Students meet their teachers in their classes, parents/whānau take their place in the audience

5.30pm – Festival begins

- Welcome

- Performances

- ◆ WWS Kapa Haka roopu
- ◆ Class 6 Poetry
- ◆ Lower School Winter songs
- ◆ Class 6 Poetry
- ◆ WWS School Choir
- ◆ Class 6 Musical Ensemble

- Classes move to court area, parents/whānau remain seated for a few minutes

- Parents/whānau then move to the court area, keeping the coned walkway clear for Class 7 and their Firesticks

- Firesticks performance

- Lighting of braziers

- Lanterns are lit, teachers lead their classes around the Spiral Lantern Walk

- This will blend into the Grotto walk. Teachers will lead their classes around the school grounds. Parents please join on the end of your child's class line.

- Teachers and students return to class together. Teachers hand over students to parents.

- Soup and buns go on sale in the Hall – please bring your own (standard sized!) mug, labelled with masking tape, and bring cash

- Social time

- Bell at approx. 7.45pm to end festival

Thanks everyone, I look forward to seeing you all there.

Noho ora mai, Rob

Feijoa Fizz in Class 3

To make the most of the end of the feijoa season, Narelle came into Class 3 to help us make Feijoa Fizz, a fermented drink made from the skin of feijoas. We put feijoa skins and a tablespoon of sugar into jars, topped up the jars with water and kept them on a warm window sill for two days, releasing and closing the lid to make sure nothing exploded. On the third day, we took the feijoa skins out, added another table spoon of sugar and waited until the fizz got fizzy and smelt delicious! We think this is going to be an Autumn tradition for our class from now on.



Class 10 – The Odyssey

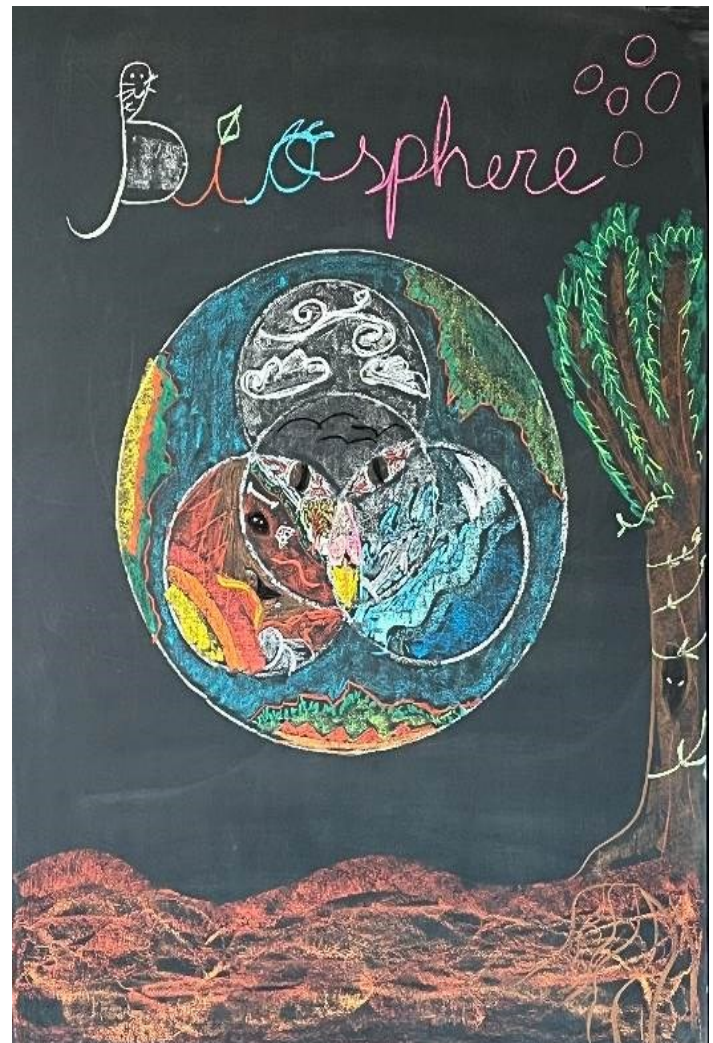
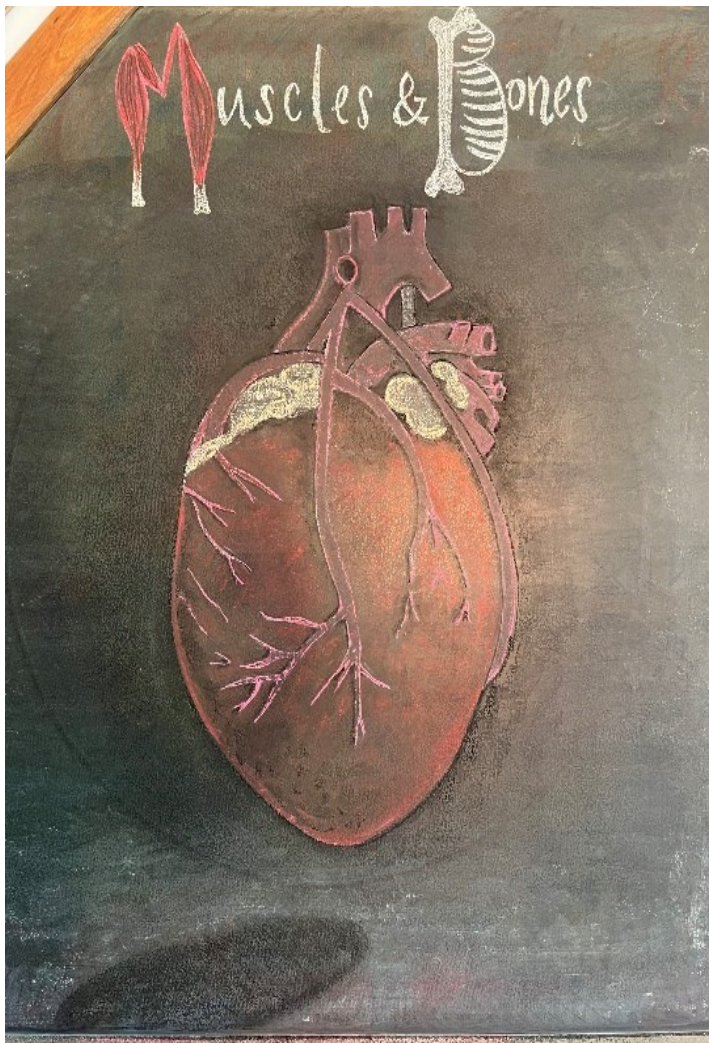
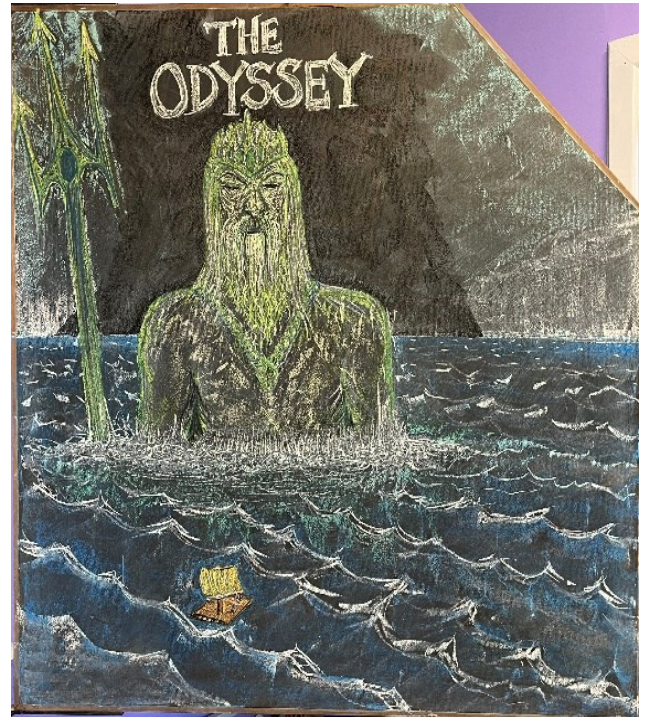
Students in CL10 read this 'Epic Poem' by Homer and critique the decisions and themes within the text.

Class 9 – The Biosphere

In this ML, students look at current global and local events or issues and consider the overarching theme of humanity's connection to the natural world.

Class 8 – Muscles and Bones

CL8 students have begun the discovery into our skeletal and muscular systems – lots of new language and art opportunities for them.



Arbor Day 2023!

This year a small group of our Enviro students from classes 6 and 7 went out to the annual planting at Waiwhakareke to continue the planting native trees that started some 17 years ago.



Armed with spades and raincoats we drove out to the site (by the zoo) and were first welcomed and given instructions on how to dig holes and plant so that the trees would be “pukeko proof”. Apparently there is a big problem of the local pukekos pulling out newly planted trees to eat their roots! We got started planting in what was probably the wettest corner of the field and at times it felt like being in a rice paddy with having a big dump of rain a couple of days before. As it was, our raincoats were on and off with intermittent sprinkles of light rain, but that cleared by lunch and it warmed up a lot.

By the time we knocked off for lunch everyone was suitably tired and hungry and enjoyed a well-deserved rest and picnic lunch.



In the afternoon, the group moved to a different area and continued planting until just before 2PM (we were the last group to go!). Despite our intentions, nobody could say exactly how many trees they had planted, however we all figured that our group must have put at least 500 trees in the ground. A good day of service by our school’s enviro-group and a big thank you to Fraser and Richelle Marsh for providing transport and supervision.

More of the same next year!

Carl Saunders