Manawaru School Newsletter



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Find us on



12th June 2025 Empowering learners for their future



Touch Base with Tumuaki

Welcome to those people who are new to the area. Hopefully your shift was uneventful, and that you enjoy the Manawaru Community experience.

This week we will be planting our next lot of native plants. We had an issue with watering them over the holidays and so our planting will be quicker! We are fortunate to have the expertise of Tim from Trees for Survival continuing to support our efforts. He is coming to dig holes the day before, and then supervising our planting. Tim is a great part of the team. He regularly pops in and checks on our plants during the year offering advice and support.

Last week I attended a conference called 'The REAL Science of Learning' in Napier. This conference focussed on the scientific progress on understanding how our brains work. Understanding in this field has been massive, as the ability to track brain function has increased. We began with Kathryn Berkett, examining the Neuroscience of brain development. Kathryn has a very common-sense way of sharing her wealth of knowledge. She spoke about how our understanding of how the brain works has changed, and the implications for creating successful learning. She has a TED talk and a number of presentations on her website. Google her name, for easy to listen to podcasts! The Occupational therapist Elen Nathan talked about the use of sensory tools. She explained that sensory toys are not necessarily the answer. She said the most important sensory tool is not what you do, it is how you do it. It is the importance of a soothing voice and soft eyes, a warm heart and gentle hands and matching demands and expectations with the available neurological resources. The title of Dr Sarah Aiona's address was titled 'When School Hurts: Reclaiming Developmentally Appropriate Practice in the Age of the Science of Learning'. She spoke of the pressure to prove learning with the warning that 'We prioritise what we can prove, not always what children need'. She spoke of how the brain develops and the importance of play in this process. She put the hard word on educators to lead with courage. Sarah reminded us that 'Educational malpractice doesn't require malice-it only requires silence'. 'Relational neuroplasticity = legacy of hope and transformation' was part of the message delivered by Andrea Greer, who has many qualifications, and is listed as a social worker. She spoke of the capacity to change to make changes to the nervous system. She finished with the saying 'Ka whangaia, ka tapu, ka puawai', this translates to 'That which is nurtured then grows and blossoms.' Dorothy Taare- Smith spoke passionately about 'Trauma, Takiwatanga and the real barriers to learning. After presenting us with some interesting data she challenged us to be open about our fears, and seek support, in order to ensure we have the ability to respond calmly and

Jase Williams reminded us of the saying 'When we know better, we do better'. He finished off our very loaded day with encouragement to keep in mind the learners and learning. This day was filled with information, and was filled with challenges to our thinking, and the purpose of education. It was a good opportunity to step back from the 'coalface' and reflect on practice. Our increasing understanding of how the brain works is challenging and exciting for us involved in education, and people!

Noho ora mai

Rosemary

'It is impossible to have your eyes open, and not have your heart broken.' Gabor Maté

COMING EVENTS

<u>June</u>

- 10 Tough Guy & Gal
- 11 Young Leaders Day
- 13 Gymsport
- 20 Matariki (School Closed)
- 27 Last Day of Term 2

<u>July</u>

14 First day of Term 3

<u>August</u>

- 8 School Cross Country
- 13 District Cross Country
- 26 Thames Valley Cross Country
- 29 Book Battle

September

- 12 Bowls Tournament @ TAPS
- 19 Last Day Term 3

October

- 6 First Day Term 4
- 27 Public Holiday (School Closed)
- 28 School Athletics Day

November

- 10 School Photos
- 21 Thames Valley Athletic

December

5 Beach Education Day (Papamoa)

REMINDERS

Manawaru School B.O.T account for stationery, sports, events etc.

03 1573 0013006 00

The Fundraising Club account for sausage sizzles or fundraising items is:

02 0436 0071213 00

Manawaru Table Tennis Club

Wednesday Nights 7:30pm Manawaru Hall New Members welcome! Ragvir Singh (07) 8846758

MANAWARU HALL BOOKINGS

If you would like to make any hall bookings please phone Alys on 021 0230 3003

Manawaru Community Church Service

You are invited to the Manawaru Community Church (opposite the school)

To be held on Sunday, 15th June at 5:00 p.m.

This will be a great time to meet or catch up with people in our community, so keep this evening free and come along and enjoy a lovely service together. Supper will follow the service. Everyone is welcome.

TRIVIAL PURSUIT NIGHT



















1st Place ---Wonderful Wallys
2nd Place ---Sweeneys + 2
3rd Place ---Commonwealth of Knowledge
Best Costume ---Belly Laugh Bonanza









7 Lawrence Avenue, Te Aroha

(07) 884 8749

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Our sessions run Monday to Friday from 8.30am to 2.30pm

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Free Hours for over 3 years, please contact us today for an appointment.







Manawaru Playcentre Playcentro

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looking for a fun place to play together?

come join us at

405B Manawaru rd

Mondays and Fridays

9.30am-12noon

Check us out on Instagram and Facebook
OR email us at:

manawaru@playcentre.org.nz

We look forward to meeting you!

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