



# Newsletter

## Important Dates

21-25 March - Litter Week  
28 March Teacher Only Day  
1-25 March - Movin March  
12-13 April Learning  
Conversations

## Term Dates

Term 1 02 Feb - 14 April  
Term 2 02 May - 08 July  
Term 3 25 July - 30 Sept  
Term 4 17 Oct - 14 Dec

## Useful Links

[greenacres.school.nz](http://greenacres.school.nz)  
[schooldocs.co.nz](http://schooldocs.co.nz)

**Wednesday 16 March 2022**

## Kia ora koutou

### Nau mai haere mai

Welcome to our new students, Wyatt Cockburn and Trestan Otang, who started in Kano this week. We wish them and their families all the best on their learning journey with us.

### Cultural Competencies

Yesterday the staff had a wonderful staff meeting with our Poutama Pounamu facilitators, Debbie Ruwhiu and Karley Wilks-Forde along with a special guest Dr Elizabeth Eley (the Associate Director of Poutama Pounamu). They are supporting us in relation to our focus on cultural competency. During our session we explored metaphors of Cultural Relationships for responsive pedagogy including:

Cultural relationships:

- whānau type relationships that demonstrate we care for our learners and have high expectations for their learning
- understanding whakapapa and knowing who our learners are; their cultural experiences and prior knowledge are foundational to their identity as learners
- promoting a common vision or kaupapa that is focused on the potential of 'all' learners to thrive in the education system without compromising who they are.

Responsive pedagogy:

- wānanga – decision-making and learning practices that are responsive to a range of relevant contextual information, including evidence, then building from the learner's own prior knowledge and experiences
- ako – promoting reciprocal responsibilities to engage with each other in on-going, interactive dialogue and sense-making
- mahi ngātahi – where teachers, learners and whānau share in the power of contributing their own sense-making to the learning of others.

We look forward to continuing our work in this area and engaging with you throughout the year.

### **KETE (Kids Enhancing the Tawa Ecosystem) and Litter Week**

Last week, our Student Council made an observation that there was quite a lot of litter around at school. They decided to take action and invited others to join them to pick up rubbish at lunchtime on Friday. This links beautifully to “Litter Week” which will be 21-25 March. During Litter Week each team will be looking at data collected last year in a rubbish audit and decide on action they want to take.

This relates to our school’s annual goal - “Tamariki will develop an understanding that they are kaitiaki of our land and will engage in actions that strengthen and grow our environment.” Great start Team Greenacres and again I look forward to sharing progress over the year.



**Teacher Only Day on Monday 28 March.** As listed in Important Dates, we will be having a Teachers Only Day shortly. This day is part of the NZEI Accord days, agreed upon to address teacher workload. Thank you for your support with this. I know that Kelly Club will be open for the day.

### **Covid Update**

Pleasingly, I don’t have much to share with you about Covid! The number of confirmed cases of Covid at Greenacres remains relatively low. We currently have 5 active cases. It has been great having tamariki return over the last few days. In addition to confirmed cases, we continue to have a number of children who are isolating as they have a family member who has tested positive. More great news is that our staff are well!

You will be aware that although we are doing well here at Greenacres, numbers of cases are rising considerably in other Wellington schools. This only motivates us all further to keep up the practices we have in place to keep the virus at bay for as long as possible. We all very much look forward to the time when we can ‘go back to normal’ but now is not the time to drop our guard. Once again I truly thank you for your ongoing support.

I wanted to give a “Shout out” to our wonderful kaiako / teachers who have been doing a brilliant job ensuring that all children can continue their learning programmes if they are at home (and feeling well). Our hardworking teachers have been flat out ensuring that everyone can stay engaged with their learning. This is in addition to spending the day at school with their classes like usual. Ngā mihi!

### **Sausage Sizzle**

A reminder that there will be another sausage sizzle, \$2 each, this Friday 18 March.

Kind regards  
Mike Thomas  
Tumuaki

## **COMMUNITY NOTICE**

With the help of the Tawa Community Patrol, the Student Volunteer Army grocery delivery service is now available.

This service is ideal for those living in Tawa who are:

- Aged 65 or over; or
- Self isolating; or
- An essential worker; or
- a solo parent, home carer or live with a disability or mental health challenge.

After you place your order, the TCP team will safely & securely shop for and deliver your essential groceries - from New World Tawa - to your door in a contactless manner.

The standard delivery fee is \$15 per delivery. SuperGold Card holders pay only \$7 per delivery, and Community Services Card holders pay only \$3 per delivery (pricing is subject to change). Deliveries are 7 days a week.

To place an order, head along to <http://shop.sva.org.nz> or call the friendly SVA team on 0800 005 902.