

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2019  
Term 1, Week 5

**Tena Koutou Katoa!**

STAND TALL



# Aria School

## \* Newsletter \*

### **In Today's Newsletter...**

- ♦ Board of Trustees Meeting - Tonight 7.00pm
- ♦ Small Schools' Swimming Sports
- ♦ Waitomo Interschools' Swimming
- ♦ Online Safety
- ♦ Family Accounts
- ♦ News from Board of Trustees
- ♦ School Notices
- ♦ Aria Playcentre
- ♦ Community Notices



Our school newsletter, notices and calendar of upcoming school events are available on our website [www.aria.school.nz](http://www.aria.school.nz)

## Principal's News...

### Welcome to Week 5

- ♦ **Board of Trustees Meeting...** Our first meeting for 2019 is to be held this evening in the staffroom starting at 7pm. As with all board meetings, you are most welcome to attend.
- ♦ **Small Schools' Swimming Sports – A great day! Thank-you Matiere School!...** Our first small schools' interschool competition was held at Matiere School on Thursday.

Many thanks to all our parent supporters, especially those who assisted with the transportation of students. It was unfortunate that nine students were unable to participate for various reasons.

- ♦ **Waitomo Interschools' Swimming...** Noah Brownlie and Corey Mason will be competing at the Te Kuiti pool on Friday.

Noah's parents will be transporting the boys and supporting them on the day.

Best wishes boys, have a great day!

- ♦ **Online Safety – it is important that you are present when your children are online...** Last week the sinister "challenge" Momo resurfaced (it has been around for some time)

We have included the **National Online Safety Top Tips for Parents**. Please read these and be vigilant with the monitoring of device use in your family.

- ♦ **Family Accounts...** were sent home last week. We would appreciate it if you could please settle your account by the 20<sup>th</sup> of March.

**Have a great week,  
Pam Voyce.**

*Tena Koutou Katoa!*

Contact us on the following...

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#### **BOT Meetings 2019**

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March  
at 7.00pm, All Welcome

#### **Waitomo Interschool Swimming (Te Kuiti)**

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March

#### **Parent Evening**

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March  
6.00pm - 7.30pm

#### **Last Day Of Term 1**

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April

#### **First Day Of Term 2**

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April

#### **2019 Senior Camp - Year 4-6**

Northland  
11<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> November

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Momo is a sinister 'challenge' that has been around for some time. It has recently resurfaced and once again has come to the attention of schools and children across the country. Dubbed the 'suicide killer game', Momo has been heavily linked with apps such as Facebook, WhatsApp, YouTube, and most recently (and most worryingly)... YouTube Kids. The scary doll-like figure reportedly sends graphic violent images, and asks users to partake in dangerous challenges like waking up at random hours and has even been associated with self-harm. It has been reported that the 'Momo' figure was originally created as a sculpture and featured in an art gallery in Tokyo and unrelated to the 'Momo' challenge we are hearing about in the media.

# What parents need to know about MOMO

## CHILDREN'S VIDEOS BEING 'HIJACKED'

There have been recent reports that some seemingly innocent videos on YouTube and YouTube Kids (such as 'surprise eggs', unboxing videos and Minecraft videos) have been edited by unknown sources to include violence provoking and/or other inappropriate content. Even though YouTube monitor and remove videos that include inappropriate content, clips can be uploaded and viewed thousands of times before they get reported and removed. As a parent, it's difficult to spot these videos as the harmful content doesn't appear until partway through the video.

## DISTRESSING FOR CHILDREN

Popular YouTubers and other accounts have been uploading reaction videos, showing their experience of the MOMO challenge. Some of the videos include a disclosure message warning that the content may be "inappropriate or offensive to some audiences" and that "viewer discretion is advised" but these videos are still easily accessed by clicking 'I understand and wish to proceed'. The image of the 'Momo' character can be deeply distressing to children and young people and it's important to note that it may slip through parental settings and filters.

## SUGGESTED VIDEOS ON YOUTUBE

Video apps such as YouTube include an 'up next' feature which automatically starts playing another video based on the video just watched. Due to YouTube's algorithm, users are shown 'suggested videos' that they may be interested in. The thumbnails used on suggested videos are purposefully created in a way to encourage viewers to click them. During our research, we found that when watching one Momo related video, we were shown countless other Momo themed videos and other scary content which would be age-inappropriate for children under 18.



**National  
Online  
Safety**

## Top Tips for Parents

### TELL THEM IT'S NOT REAL

Just like any urban legend or horror story, the concept can be quite frightening and distressing for young people. Whilst this may seem obvious, it's important for you to reiterate to your child that Momo is not a real person and cannot directly harm them! Also, tell your child to not go openly searching for this content online as it may only cause more distress.

### BE PRESENT

It's important for you, as a parent or carer, to be present while your children are online. This will give you a greater understanding of what they are doing on their devices, as well as providing you with the opportunity to discuss, support and stop certain activities that your child may be involved in. As the nature of each task become progressively worse it's also important to recognise any changes in your child's behaviour.

### TALK REGULARLY WITH YOUR CHILD

As well as monitoring your child's activity, it's important for you to discuss it with them too. Not only will this give you an understanding of their online actions, but those honest and frequent conversations will encourage your child to feel confident to discuss issues and concerns they may have related to the online world.

### DEVICE SETTINGS & PARENTAL CONTROLS

Ensure that you set up parental controls for your devices at home. This will help to restrict the types of content that your child can view, as well as help you to monitor their activity. In addition to this, it's vital that you are aware of your device and account settings to ensure your child's utmost safety. For example, on YouTube you can turn off 'suggested auto-play' on videos to stop your child from viewing content that they have not directly selected.

### PEER PRESSURE

Trends and viral challenges can be tempting for children to take part in; no matter how dangerous or scary they seem. Make sure you talk to your child about how they shouldn't succumb to peer pressure and do anything they are not comfortable with, online or offline. If they are unsure, encourage them to talk to you or another trusted adult.

### REAL OR HOAX?

As a parent it is natural to feel worried about certain things you see online that may be harmful to your child. However, not everything you see online is true. Check the validity of the source and be mindful of what you share as it may only cause more worry.

### REPORT & BLOCK

You can't always rely on parental controls to block distressing or harmful material. People find ways around a platform's algorithm in order to share and promote this type of material. Due to this, we advise that you flag and report any material you deem to be inappropriate or harmful as soon as you come across it. You should also block the account/content to prevent your child from viewing it. Also encourage your child to record/screenshot any content they feel could be malicious to provide evidence in order to escalate the issue to the appropriate channels.

### FURTHER SUPPORT

Speak to the safeguarding lead within your child's school should you have any concerns regarding your child's online activity or malicious content that could affect them.

If your child sees something distressing, it is important that they know where to go to seek help and who their trusted adults are. They could also contact Childline where a trained counsellor will listen to anything that's worrying them.

The Childline phone number is  
0800 1111.

# NEWS FROM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## BOT News – Term 1

Firstly, a HUGE thank you to everyone for the combined effort put into the Aria bike ride on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of Feb. This year we had a record number of riders over both days at 1230!

A very very special thank you to the landowners who allow us to use their farms for the tracks, quite often this means that paddocks can't have stock in them for 5 days from the start of track marking. We wouldn't be able to hold the bike ride fundraiser if it wasn't for the generosity of these farmers.

Thank you to the sponsors for their continued support.

Thank you to the parents, community members and everyone who helped out on the weekend and made it run like clockwork. Your time and effort was much appreciated.

Everyone should be very proud of how well the weekend was conducted; there was a lot of positive feedback received.

Secondly, if anyone is interested in joining the board of trustees or becoming a board member then by all means come along on Monday night (tonight) to our meeting at 7pm. You don't even have to be a parent. Joining the BOT is a great way to support the school in providing opportunities for the students.

Before I sign off, don't forget about the parent evening on the 13<sup>th</sup> March – after all, you don't know what you don't know. There are a few new families at school, come and learn some tips and tricks to support your children and be involved in their learning. Bring a friend.

And lastly we value your feedback, if you have any suggestions or ideas that you think might help or enhance the school environment, contact myself, another BOT member or the school if there is anything you wish to add or discuss. After all the BOT is here to ensure the school provides the best possible opportunity for every student.

Cheers,  
Catherine Terry  
BOT Chairperson



# SCHOOL NOTICES



## 2019 Maniapoto Māori Trust Board Primary, Secondary, and Tertiary Grants

Applications open Monday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2019 and close Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2019.

Are you or your children registered with the Maniapoto Māori Trust Board Tribal (MMTB) Register? If so, parents can make application on their children's behalf for the Primary School Grant.

If you have affiliations to Maniapoto iwi, but have not yet registered, you can download registration forms from the website [www.maniapoto.iwi.nz](http://www.maniapoto.iwi.nz). **You and your children must be registered to be eligible for this grant.** Forms can also be collected from the school office.

Payment of this grant will be made directly to your child's/children's nominated school account. **Payment will not be made to a personal bank account.**

It is highly recommended that parents/caregivers make contact with schools to discuss where you would like this grant to be used to benefit your child/ren.

If you have any further queries, you can talk to Whaea Marie at Āria School on (07) 8777 857 or contact Marissa Campbell at MMTB directly on 0800 668 285.

*Ā muri kia mau ki tēnā, kia mau ki te kawau mārō, whanake ake, whanake ake*



To the Williams and the Hodges families that nominated Aria School for the NZ Farmer Livestock bobby calf scheme.

## SUN HATS ARE COMPULSORY!

Please ensure your **child/ren have a named sun hat at school.** The preferred style of hat is a bucket style hat which protects the ears, neck and face.

**Sunscreen is available outside Room 1.**

## ABSENCES

If your child is going to be absent please notify the school office before 9:00am each day with a reason as to why your child is away. There is an absentee form on the School Stream app you can complete and this will be emailed directly to the school office.

## AFTER SCHOOL ARRANGEMENTS

Please advise all changes to after school arrangements **BEFORE 3:00pm** each day either by phone or sending a signed note with your child to the school office.

We require **Parent/Caregiver notification** and **will not accept this verbally from the child.** If you phone **AFTER 3:00pm** please ensure you speak to the person in charge of buses for that day.



## MEDICINE AT SCHOOL

Our school policy states that if your child has to take ANY MEDICINE whilst at school that this is to be brought to the office and will be administered to the child by a staff member.

Please send any medication in a sealed clearly marked plastic bag with the instructions of what the child is to have administered.

# ARIA PLAYCENTRE

Today being a little cooler the swim was postponed in lieu of some water play.

Using some syringes donated by Atkinson and Associates Vets, we set up several bowls of coloured water and let the children experiment. Some of the older ones were able to manage the syringes easily but for others it took a little coordination to get the technique – they were big 60 ml syringes so not easy for little hands. Great hand-eye coordination practice though!

Invariably they were turned into water pistols, so to remove other children as the targets (mostly sibling vs sibling aka Darke boys!) we went off to hunt for some bugs in the bushes to squirt! Kaleb and Cody turned their syringes into guns and explored under the trees on the bottom field looking for rabbits – their eyes nearly fell out of their head when they spotted a real life (and very tame) rabbit, who was wise enough to quietly hop off home before she was showered!

Later we made 'slime' out of soap flakes and Cody and Waitaria enjoyed "baking" with this new material, a variation on playdough and a new texture to experiment with.

The indoor jungle gym was popular for Kaleb, Billie and Dylan and later we all moved to the bottom field for more climbing/ balancing fun.

## NEXT SESSION

**TUESDAY 5<sup>th</sup> MARCH**

**9:30am - 12 midday**

**Upcoming Sessions**

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March**

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March**

**New families are always welcome!!**

Any queries please call Emma Darke on  
07 877 6854

*"Whanau tupu ngatahi -  
families working together"*





## Tēnā Koutou Katoa Parents, Caregivers and Community...

### TE KUITI JUNIOR CRICKET

Are you interested in playing cricket?

Practice nights are Thursday in Te Kuiti.

For more information please call  
Kelly Hibbert on 027 366 3218



"You don't always  
need a plan.  
Sometimes you just  
need to *breathe*, TRUST,  
*let go* and see what  
happens."

-Mandy Hale

### KING OF THE SCHOOLS

Primary | Intermediate | Secondary | Homeschools

Friday 5th Of April 2019

**apinestars**



Enter Online [www.nkcmcc.co.nz](http://www.nkcmcc.co.nz)

Pumpn Park 376 Mangarino Rd, Te Kuiti



**TIRONUI  
MEDIA**

Facebook.com/NKCMCC



### FREE EAR CLINIC SERVICE FOR CHILDREN Term 1 (2019)

**All children must be accompanied by parent or caregiver**

For enquiries regarding this service please contact the phones listed or Hamilton – phone 838 3565 extension: 22189

Visit the ear nurse for advice on: glue ear assessment and management, wax/foreign body removal, grommet checks, treatment of discharging ears

**Please note clinics may be cancelled without notice due to unforeseen circumstances**

Te Kuiti	Tuesday 19 March Tuesday 2 April Tuesday 16 April	Outpatient Department, Te Kuiti Hospital	By appointment Phone 07 878 7333
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