



He Huarahi Tamariki

SCHOOL FOR TEENAGE PARENTS - TERM 2 2022

Road Trip: Ngā Manu Sanctuary via Transmission Gully

It's not every day a new highway is opened on your back door step, so when one opened on ours, we decided to take advantage of it with a road trip!

We booked some fine weather and set off up the coast to the Ngā Manu Nature Reserve. It was so nice to be out as a group again after so much time spent away from each other due to COVID isolations. We enjoyed the fresh air, the great views from the new road and the wonderful surroundings at Ngā Manu and the inhabitants who live there.

*Right (various): Students & Staff at Ngā Manu Nature Reserve.
Below: Stunning Photos taken by Shanaia Rapira at Ngā Manu.*



Student Contribution — Black Lives Matter

“THUG LIFE.” This is the acronym for “the hate you give little infants f**ks everybody,” a phrase originally made popular by an African American rapper Tupac Shakur in the 90s. Twenty or so years later, the phrase still lives on, inspiring Angie Thomas to write the novel “The Hate You Give” which shows a perspective from a Black person's life and the effect society has on it, police brutality, and a young generation that lives through gun violence like it's their normal. The message is clear, Black lives matter.

“Know your rights, know your worth,” Maverick Carter explained to his daughter Starr Carter and her brother Sekani over breakfast. “Put your hands on the dashboard so they can be seen.” Two little kids, listened to their father explain how to live safely when you are Black. From Starr's point of view? Fear and adrenaline crawled up her spine without words having to describe it. The look in a Black innocent little girl's eyes was intense. To her father Maverick? He's just preparing his little girl for the world ahead of her, what any Black father would do in today's society.

Police brutality is the main cause of worry. Getting shot simply because your skin doesn't blend, it pops. Getting shot because Black culture is offensive in some eyes. Or in Khalil's case, Starrs best friend since childhood, getting shot because an officer assumed his hairbrush was a gun. There were zero chances of explaining what

the object was. BANG, and he was dead, his body left to lie on the streets like an exhibit. Prior to this tragedy, Starr reminded Khalil to keep his hands on the dashboard. As he was an African American male with strong values, Khalil argued his rights, but they didn't matter in the officer's eyes, his skin colour does. This portrays the racial profiling that has continued over centuries, as well as police brutality, which continues to this very day.

Police Officer Carlos, Starr's uncle, urged her to make a statement about the shooting of her childhood friend. Feeling a bit on edge, Starr decided to still move forward despite how hurt she was. Walking into a police station when you're of colour, you're not sure if you're going to be asked about what happened that night or how much trouble you've caused which is what happened. As soon as Starr and her mother sat down to tell “their” story, they began to realise how the police were trying to manipulate and cover up the actual crime, and realised the police officers just wanted to know if Khalil was a “troublemaker”. In Starr's mind? No matter what she said, it was always going to go the other way simply because Khalil was Black. Starr realized that her dad was right about the police twisting her words and she then started realizing what her dad had been preparing her for since she was a child.



Shanaia Rapira is the 2021 recipient of the He Huarahi Tamariki Writing Cup for Excellence in Writing at Level 1 or 2.

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Tēnā koutou katoa

*He hono tāngata e kore e motu;
kā pā he taura waka, e motu.*

*Unlike a canoe rope, a human bond cannot be severed
Loving human connections cannot be broken.*

Term 2 has been a time of building on our whanaungatanga, both within our kura and outside of our whare. While we have still been learning how to live in these Covid times, we have had many amazing opportunities to live our values.

- We have been fortunate to build our hono, our connections, with the community from Titiro Whakamua, the TPU in Upper Hutt.
- We have had the privilege of sharing our Matariki celebrations with our tamariki in Kids Count.
- We have had very generous sponsorship from the Zonta Club of Mana to allow us to see the inspirational story of *Whina*.

These experiences and opportunities allow us to weave together the strong human bonds that this whakataukī speaks of. Thank you to our He Huarahi Tamariki community for supporting all of us in our mahi.

Ngā mihi nui, Paula Hay – Kaiārahi

Welcome to our New Babies!



Jess, a girl
Tiare, a girl

Coffee Anyone?

Term 2 has been all about keeping warm, and as everyone knows, a hot drink helps with that. To find out more about making hot drinks professionally, a number of our students have attended a Barista course run by Capital Training in both Term 1 and Term 2. They learnt how to make tea, coffee, and hot chocolate anyway you like it; and let's just say, there was no shortage of staff volunteering to collect students at the end of the day, as tasters were often required as part of the assessment. Congratulations to Pina, Shruti, Bree, Bridget and Millie on completing this course and receiving 15 Level 2 NCEA credits!



Top Left: Pina brewing up a coffee. Bottom Left: In goes the milk. Bottom Centre: Pina getting to enjoy all her hard work. Right: Millie doing the important job of cleaning up.

Welcome Back to School!

Term 2 began with a focus on resettling everyone back in to our school community after a very disrupted Term 1. We did this by dedicating a couple of days to spending time together and sharing some experiences.



At the Yoga in Daily Life studio: Back L-R Helen, Rose, Pina, Kamla, Millie, Jackie and Liz; Front L-R Bridget, Caci, Bree, Fiona and Shruti.

One of these experiences was an excursion to visit the Yoga in Daily Life studio in the city for a yoga session. This was something we had wanted to do at the beginning of the year, but had been unable to due to COVID restrictions.

Kamla ran a session for us and it was lovely to do this in her 'home' space after having had her visit us throughout Term 1 to run yoga sessions at school. Thanks to Kamla for a very 'chill' start to our day.



The Batucada Workshop: Back L-R Bree and Millie; Front L-R Caci, Fiona, Paula, Helen, Rose, Jackie, Shruti, Darryn, Liz, Regis, Bridget and Pina.

We then balanced this with a dynamic Batucada Drumming workshop at the Cook Island Society Hall in Newtown. For many of us, this was the first time we had tried anything like this and we discovered it was a lot of fun—even for those of us who thought we were not musically talented!

What a great way to get physical and simultaneously work as a team. Thanks to Darryn Sigley from Batucada Wellington for leading the workshop.

Connections with Titiro Whakamua

We have been very lucky this term to have spent a lot of time with the students and staff from Titiro Whakamua (Hutt Valley Teen Parent Unit). This has been a valuable opportunity to connect with other young people who are sharing similar life experiences.

One of the activities was Kapa Haka and Te Ao Māori inspired modern dance at Te Aho o Te Kura Pounamu. This entailed working together on dance pieces, some of which we choreographed, until we were ready for an assessment performance at the end of term. We are looking forward to more opportunities like this and really appreciate Te Kura reaching out to include us.

In the middle of the term, due to illness, we had spare tickets available for the Tough Gal event in Wainuiomata so we offered them to the students at Titiro Whakamua and they took up the challenge and then some! It was great to have the extra company on the day and be able to support each other through the race. A big thank you to the staff and supporters who helped to make this happen.

After that, Titiro Whakamua hosted us for a Cyber Safety workshop that they had organised with John Parsons. There was a session for the students and then they had the opportunity to connect over Ten Pin Bowling in the afternoon, while staff had another session tailored for them.

Lastly, we had organised a joint excursion to the Matariki exhibition at Whirinaki Whare Taonga in Upper Hutt followed up by a visit to the careers expo held next door.

Check out the photos and comments on the right to get a taste of the fun we have had together.



I enjoyed working with other teenage mums from the Hutt TPU - we were able to talk together about parenting and share ideas, and we had a lot of fun!

Shruti



In Term 2 we made a strong connection with another TPU and I'm very happy about the connection that we've had and continue to have. Getting along with other young mums from a different school is fun. We have done so many fun activities last term and hopefully we will continue to do some more. I love how my school, He Huarahi Tamariki and Titiro Whakamua, are making memories.

Catherine



This year we've been lucky enough to spend some time with Titiro Whakamua. It has been so awesome building relationships with other young mums from the Wellington region and catching up with lovely Lydia who used to attend HHT. From doing tough gal challenges together, to bowling and performing arts. These young women are amazing and I would love to do more activities with them in the future.

Bridget



Matariki Celebrations

With COVID restrictions easing somewhat, we were able to enjoy celebrating Matariki as we usually do together with Kids Count. Thank you to Claire and Fiona for organising this, to Rose and Daizy Design for the amazing Face Painting, to Liz for the Music and to our students for the magical star experience!



Far Left: Nas exploring toys and music.

Left: Teariki enjoying percussion.

Right: Tayvia and Talia showing off their face paint.

Far Right: Akeila with Lisiana.



Black Lives Matter (continued)

Continued from Front

Black lives should matter, but they don't. "Here we are again, violence and brutality, it's the same story, but a different name. Today's name is Khalil Harris, another unarmed young Black man," said April Ofah, leader of a social justice group that later on led the affected community of Khalil's death outraged at the injustice of the situation. "It's impossible to be unarmed, when our Blackness is the weapon they fear." She stated the sad reality of society's attitude towards Black people. This clearly portrayed how the colour of Khalil's skin was the exact reason why he was shot. Starr comes to a realization that her parents had been preparing her for the reality of the world right before her, the reality of being a Black girl.

This prejudiced attitude towards people of colour continues, and not just in novels and films. No one sees beyond the colour of their skin, therefore justice isn't really served in their favour or at all. Gun violence and police brutality are clearly portrayed in this story and similar chilling events took place in 2020 in America, in front of what became a worldwide audience. George Floyd was a Black man who passed away from police brutality. As Angie Thomas said in her novel, "The messed up part? There are so many more," referring to her fictional character, Khalil. The real George Floyd is another name on a very long list. On May 25th 2020, this 46 year old Black man was pinned down by the knee of a White Officer, Derek Chauvin, who has subsequently been on trial for murder. For nine and a half minutes Mr Floyd's lungs went without any air being able to flow through his windpipe. His death was the result. During the arrest, there was also a fourth officer who was making sure no one interfered with the arrest. However, the events unfolded before the eyes of the bystanders, who pulled out their phones to record. In the recordings, it is clear that George is telling the officers he can't breathe, more than a dozen times. This outraged the audi-

ence and sparked world-wide "Black Lives Matter" protests.

Not only did the novel and the movie "The Hate You Give" spark interest among the Black communities, but it was also seen negatively by some parts of American society. The fictional story has been banned in some places for "being pervasively vulgar" and also because of "drug use, profanity and offensive language." In reality, if you were to look at it from a more understanding perspective, the fiction portrays and exposes the raw truth of living in a Black community. Today, the colour of your skin shouldn't matter, but it still does. Everyone has rights, including the Black community. The struggle for justice in Black communities, police brutality, and racism are just some of the things that continue to this day.

If you were a Black man or woman living in the United States in 2021, how could you not believe that racism kills? If you are Black, you know it very well. For example, President Trump and the government had no problem calling out armed troops to defend the capital against a peaceful protest demonstration, but when White supremacists stormed the senate, there were no soldiers there. If that isn't a clear sign of racism then I don't know what is. You don't need to see the video of George Floyd's death, to know that racism still exists. And it is not okay. The Floyd family's Attorney Ben Crump, commented that "We're not asking for anything extraordinary, were asking for equal justice under the law."

On April 3rd 2021, the trial of Derek Chauvin accused of George Floyd's murder drew to an end. The verdict? *Guilty*. Police Officer Derek Chauvin was found guilty by the jury on all three charges. You just wonder what he was thinking when he performed those fatal actions. This verdict, hopefully a milestone, is probably one of the rarest times to go down in history. A White police officer has finally been held accountable for taking advantage of his "white privilege." Black Lives Matter! And justice is finally being served.

Shanaia Rapira

Graduate News

Here at He Huarahi Tamariki we are often blessed with visitors from the past. It is always lovely to reconnect and see what past students are doing and to see their children again.

We recently had a lovely visit from He Huarahi Tamariki Graduate Tineka Waiariki along with her children Kahu and Raiden. Tineka has recently moved back in to the area and was just checking in. Once they are all settled, Tineka is looking forward to completing her Hairdressing studies and potentially adding Babering to her skills. It was so nice to catch up!

From Left: Kohine, Kahu, Tineka, Raiden & Helen.



Donations towards the work of the school are always welcome and donations to the scholarship fund can be made to the HHT Trust. Either of these are tax deductible and a receipt will be sent to you.

A very big thank you to all the public and private donors who have supported us recently. Your donations are very much appreciated.

Thank you to Gawith-Deans Family Trust, Wellington Methodist Charitable and Educational Endowment Trust, David Daily Charitable Trust, Zonta, Kiwi Community Assistance, Pat Lummis, Beanies for Babies, Pregnancy Help, Loved for Life, Parish of Pauatahanui and the many others who donate used equipment and clothing.

If you have changed address or would like the newsletter emailed to you, please contact us via info@hht.school.nz

Our host school is Wellington East Girls' College - Principal: Gael Ashworth



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School for Teenage Parents,
Wellington, NZ

"Of course you can do it"