



Glen Eden Primary Kiwi Team Newsletter Term 1 - 2025



Nau mai, haere mai Welcome to Term 1 2025

Topic Focus

Our topic this term is largely based on whakawhanaungatanga (building relationships and connections). This will be built on through the learning of our new school pepeha as well as our individual pepeha. A pepeha is a way of introducing yourself in te reo Māori as well as connecting you to places and people. It is also a wonderful way for students to celebrate and share their cultural identities. A new year also comes with everyone having a shared understanding of our school values: whakawhanaungatanga, kairangi, ako and manaakitanga.

Health PE Focus

The main PE focus for this term is swimming. Our pool is a wonderful resource for students to develop water confidence and safety, as well as their swimming skills. Each Kiwi class swims three times a week, teachers will let you know what days your child will be swimming. Children are expected to participate in the class swimming sessions.

General Reminder

It is extremely important for students to wear sun hats and to have water bottles on hand everyday. Classes have sunscreen which students are encouraged to use.

Kiwi Team

- **Belongings** : We actively encourage tamariki to take responsibility for their own belongings. Names in hats, swimming togs, towels, clothes and scooters make it easier to return any misplaced items. Teachers have vivid markers that you are welcome to borrow to name these items.
- **Maths**: Students will begin the term doing statistical investigations where they gather and discuss data about everyday occurrences and objects. The rest of the term, they will be working in groups on place value, addition and subtraction with lots of counting and number work. Students will also daily learn about and discuss days of the week, time and understand more about the weather and temperature.
- **Literacy**: Kiwi teachers use the **Better Start Literacy Approach (BSLA)** to inform and guide their literacy teaching. This is an evidence based literacy approach that has been created by the University of Canterbury. Although students won't always bring a book home every night it is important that they have their bookbag at school everyday. Students will receive words to learn weekly and they will also visit the library once a week, their bookbags ensure books are protected.
- **Reading Eggs and MathSeeds**: These two online apps are funded by the School for students to have access to both at school and at home. Your child's classroom teacher will provide your child's logon information.
- **Communication with whānau**: Communication with whānau will be through our school newsletter that is emailed and also found on our website. We also share information through the Hero app.

Ngā mihi,

Julie Austin, Sarah Monday, Jess Lovegrove, Moana Biggs, Tori Whittam and
Salomé Bergs



Introducing the Kiwi Kaiako 2025



Room 12 - Tori Whittam You can contact me by email at toriw@geps.school.nz.

Kia ora Whānau, my name is Tori and I'm the teacher in Room 12. I have been a teacher for 2 and half years. Two of these in the UK teaching seniors (Y3-5) and 6 months in NZ working as a specialist teacher aide running a play-based learning classroom. I have been in New Zealand for a year and a half now and have travelled up and down the country. I love the beach, the gym and spending time travelling where I can. I am extremely excited to be a part of the GEPS team.



Salomé Bergs (Team leader) Email at salomeb@geps.school.nz

Kia ora, ko Salomé tōku ingoa. I have been teaching at Glen Eden for many years. I am the Team Leader for the Kiwi whānau and for the last few years, I have worked with children in smaller groups to improve their reading and writing. I also love supporting and working alongside the fabulous Kiwi whānau teachers. I live in Titirangi, with my partner Jason, my young adult children Luca and Amelié and our wee dog Babu. I am always happy to meet with whānau to discuss any literacy learning needs.



Room 4 Julie Austin Email at juliea@geps.school.nz

Kia ora, my name is Julie Austin and I am a kaiako in Room 3. I have been teaching in the Kiwi team at GEPS for 11 years, in particular New Entrants. I love supporting new students to build confidence and independence as they begin their learning journey. I live in West Auckland and am married with two adult sons. I feel privileged to be teaching at GEPS again this year!



Room 4 Sarah Monday You can contact me by email sarahm@geps.school.nz

Kia ora! My name is Sarah Monday and I am one of the New Entrant teachers in Room 4. I joined the Kiwi team here at GEPS in term 3 last year, after being a parent here for a few years. I believe it is important, in gaining the trust and forming relationships with both Tamariki and Whānau, when transitioning a child into their new learning environment.

I live in West Auckland with my husband and children. I love the beach, spending time with family and friends.



Room 6 Jess Lovegrove Email at jessical@geps.school.nz

Kia ora, ko Jess tōku ingoa. This is my second year teaching Year 1 & 2 at Glen Eden Primary School. I love being a part of the Kiwi team at GEPS and enjoy supporting young tamariki in the early years of their school life. I hope to help all students build confidence, ask curious questions, and discover the joy of learning.

I live in Kumeu with my husband and dog. I love playing sports and spending time with my friends and family. I am really looking forward to a fantastic year!



Room 14 Moana Biggs Email at moanah@geps.school.nz

Kia Ora, Ko Moana tōku ingoa. I am in my sixth year teaching at Glen Eden Primary School. I teach Year 1 and 2 students. I enjoy working in Kiwi team, watching our young tamariki grow in confidence, gain trust and seeing new friendships develop. I live in West Auckland with my husband and 3 adult daughters. I enjoy playing netball and spending time with friends and family. I am looking forward to getting to know all our whānau in Room 14 and having a fantastic year ahead!