

TERM 1, 2026 | WEEK 4

KAHUTARA SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Year 3 - 8 Sleepover 2026

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Kia ora e te whānau,

A huge thank you to all the parents and caregivers who joined us for our recent Whānau Picnic and for your wonderful support of the Year 3–8 Sleepover. We were very grateful that the weather was on our side and that we could go ahead as planned. It was an excellent evening, filled with laughter, connection, and some very happy (and tired!) children the next day.

We also sincerely appreciate your understanding when we had to close the school last Monday due to the weather. The safety of our students and staff is always our top priority, and we are thankful for the support shown by our community.

We have some exciting learning experiences coming up over the next month:

- Hub 2 will be attending the Golden Shears on Thursday 5th March.
- Our Year 1–2 students will be visiting Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre on Friday 13th March.
- Our Years 6–8 students will be visiting Te Ore Ore Marae in Masterton on Monday 16th March.

Permission slips for Pukaha and Te Ore Ore trips will be coming home shortly.

New Board Members

Last night, our Board held the first meeting for the year and we are very pleased to welcome two new members. Alice Fraser has filled the vacant position on the Board and was elected as a parent representative, and Scarlett Boyle has joined the Board as a co-opted member. Both Alice and Scarlett bring valuable skills and experience around finance and community connection. Hugo Handyside has been re-elected as the Presiding Member, which is excellent news for our school. Thank you to our members for the important work that the Board does, and the commitment and support that they show so our school continues to provide the best possible learning environment for our students. We appreciate the many hours that they give behind the scenes – attending meetings, reviewing policies, planning for the future, and always keeping the well-being and achievement of our tamariki at the centre of our work.

Kahutara School Board

Hugo Handyside - Presiding Member
Ariana Te Whetu - Principal
Inga Munro - Staff Representative
Bridget Sparks - Parent Representative

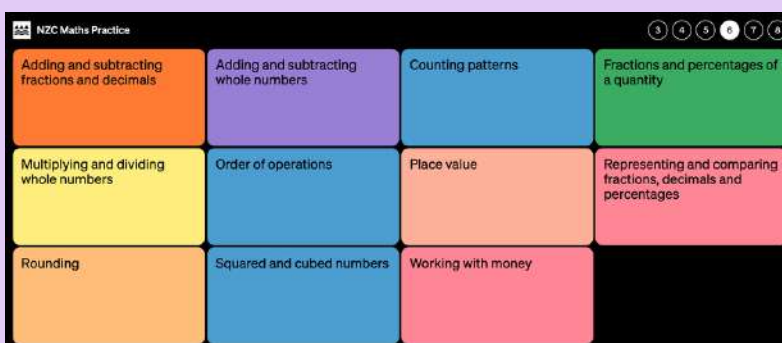
Stella Khoo - Parent Representative
Amy Jaquierey - Parent Representative
Alice Fraser - Parent Representative
Scarlett Boyle - Co-opted Member

Home Learning

As you will be aware, there are significant changes across the NZ Curriculum at the moment. An important focus at our school this year is implementing the new English and Maths Curriculum areas. We are looking at ways to help parents understand the changes, too, and how you can support your child's learning at home. Our teachers provide Home Learning each week, and students in Years 2 - 8 will also receive spelling words as part of the iDeaL Literacy Approach. If you have any questions about the Home Learning Programme, please contact your child's classroom teacher in the first instance. The Ministry of Education has set up a range of maths activities on its website for students to practise what they have learned over the past year. The work is arranged by year level, so you will need to help your child select the level that best suits them. At this stage, the Maths practice website is a pilot that will run for 6 months, then they will review its effectiveness. Students should be able to use a tablet, laptop, or phone to complete the tasks.

Click on this link to go to the website - [NZC Maths Practice](https://www.education.govt.nz/mathsppractice/) or education.govt.nz and go to the 'Parents and Caregivers' section, then the 'Parent Portal' then 'Maths Practice'. At the top right-hand side of the page, you can see the numbers 3 - 8, these are the different year levels. This photo shows what it looks like:

Ngā mihi,
Ariana Te Whetu



ASSEMBLY CELEBRATIONS



Here are our latest certificate winners - ka mau te wehi. Awesome work Ava, Haylee, Indie, Elizabeth, Mabel, Kahu, Paddy, Harley-Rose and Colton. We also loved hearing students from Room 3 and Room 5 share their work!

STAFF SPOTLIGHT - SHANNON DAKEN

SHANNON STARTED AS A TEACHER AIDE AT KAHUTARA SCHOOL IN 2017. SHE IS IN HER FINAL YEAR OF TEACHER TRAINING AND IS GOING TO BE A FABULOUS TEACHER VERY SOON!!!

What do you like the most about Kahutara School?

Our students and I think just our whole school - I love all of it!

If you could change ONE thing about our school, what would it be?

Some fresh new equipment for the playground would be nice.

Who was your favourite teacher at school, and what did they do that was special?

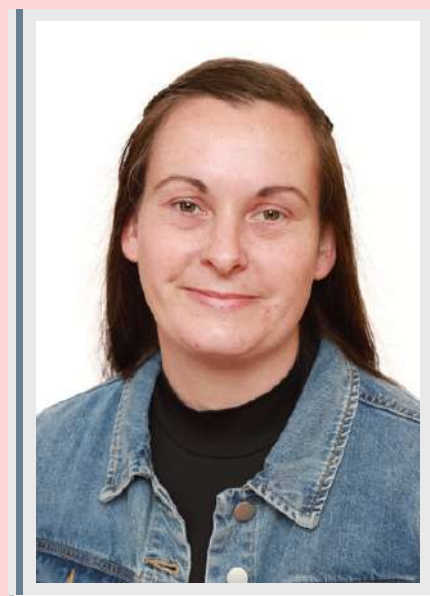
Mrs Wrigley, because she was always very helpful and she was a great teacher.

Where were you born and where did you grow up?

Born and bred in Featherston.

If you could have a superpower, what would it be and why?

I wish I was like Mrs Weasley - who waves her wand and the house is clean!



STUDENT LEADER SPOTLIGHT - SPORTS LEADERS

Hunter Duckett

Why did you want to become a sports leader?

Because I like sport and to help other kids get into sport.

What do you like the most about Kahutara School?

I like that we are in the country and the people here are good people.

If you could change ONE thing about our school, what would it be?

I would put a deeper swimming pool so we can jump in and it would also have a diving board.

Who was your favourite teacher and what did they do that was special?

Mrs Munro because she understands me better than most of the teachers.

Where do you see yourself in 20 years?

Hopefully I will be a builder or a contractor driving big machinery. I will still be living in the Wairarapa.

If you could have a superpower, what would it be and why?

I would be able to go back in time so I can go back to fun times in my life.



Ben Jaspers

Why did you want to become a sports leader?

Because I like sport and I really wanted to get other people playing sport too.

What do you like the most about Kahutara School?

There are lots of options for different sports and different sports tournaments.

If you could change ONE thing about our school, what would it be?

We should have a ping-pong tournament and a parent-student pickleball tournament

Who was your favourite teacher and what did they do that was special?

Mrs Howe and Miss Woodhouse were really helpful when I was stuck on something and were good at teaching me what to do.

Where do you see yourself in 20 years?

One of my goals is to play professional cricket (in NZ!) for the Black Caps.

If you could have a superpower, what would it be and why?

I would go forward in time! Then I can see what is coming in the future.



Bonnie Beyer

Why did you want to become a sports leader?

Because I love sports and showing other kids sportsmanship - and just getting out there, doing team sports.

What do you like the most about Kahutara School?

The community - its nice and rural out here but we still get involved with lots of stuff even though we are so rural.

If you could change ONE thing about our school, what would it be?

Upgrade the monkey bars

Who was your favourite teacher and what did they do that was special?

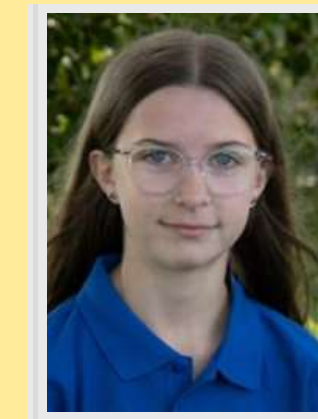
Mrs Sims, because she makes a cake for every one on their birthday - no matter what, and she gets along with all the kids - she is a pretty fun teacher.

Where do you see yourself in 20 years?

Probably still live around here, not sure what I'll be yet!

If you could have a superpower, what would it be and why?

Maybe teleportation - so I could just go anywhere I need.



IMPORTANT DATES

Week 4

- Wed 25th Feb - Kapa Haka starts again for interested students

Week 5

- Mon 2nd Mar - Rippa Rugby lessons for all classes
- Tues 3rd Mar - Featherston Cluster Swimming Event
- Wed 4th Mar - Y7 Boostrix and HPV Vaccinations
- Thurs 5th Mar - Hub 2 trip to Golden Shears

Week 6

- Mon 9th Mar - Rippa Rugby lessons for all classes
- Tues 10th Mar - Technology lessons for Year 7 & 8's begin at Featherston School
- Tues 10th Mar - Sth Wairarapa Swimming in Masterton
- Fri 13th Mar - Year 1 & 2s trip to Pūkaha

Week 7

- Mon 16th Mar - Year 6 - 8 visiting Te Ore Ore Marae (Masterton)
- Wed 18th Mar - Parent-Teacher meetings

Week 8

- Mon 23rd Mar - Board Meeting at 5pm
- Wed 25th Mar - Wairarapa Swimming Event
- Wed 25th Mar - Parent-Teacher Meetings

Week 9

- Thurs 2nd April - End of Term Assembly 1:45pm start
- Thurs 2nd April - Last day of term
- Fri 3rd April - Good Friday (school closed)

PHOTOS FROM ROOM 3'S RUAMĀHANGA FARM TRIP



CORRESPONDENCE

Expressions of Interest Open
FOR OUR 2026 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

Spaces available for **\$10 music lessons** in our scholarship programme

APPLY NOW!
Don't Miss Out!

<https://forms.gle/6jMb8AXp5Wd54k4CA>

TRUST HOUSE
SUMMER HUMMER
CHAI
SUPPORTED BY **FRANKIE VENTER**

SUPPORT ACTS
CULTURE EMBASSY • MACEO FIELD • LUCAS STONELEY
TOM FAR • THE YOUNG FELLAS • RUBY BREMNER

SATURDAY 28 FEBRUARY
QUEEN ELIZABETH SPORTS GROUND - MASTERTON

TICKETS ON EVENTFINDER

Year 7 Vaccinations – Important Information

Our Public Health Immunisation Nurses are coming to your school soon



Our Public Health Nursing Team will be visiting the school this term to administer the Year 7 Boostrix and HPV vaccinations to students whose parents or caregivers have provided consent.

Consent Forms

Consent forms were handed out to students this week.

Please make sure these are completed, signed, and returned by the date stated on the form.

Need to Update Your Consent or Have Questions?

If you have reconsidered vaccinating your child, have had a change in circumstances, or have any questions or concerns, please contact the Public Health Team at least 24 hours before the vaccination day.

Contact Details:

Email: GW-NPHSimmunisation@tewhatuora.govt.nz

Phone: 04 587 2949

Please include your child's full name and the school they attend when getting in touch.

Vaccination Dates

- **Boostrix and HPV Dose 1: Wednesday, 4th March**

If your child is absent on this date, a catchup clinic will be held within three weeks of the scheduled vaccination.

Thank you for your cooperation and continued support in keeping our school community healthy

After-School Help

After-school help needed from the end of February for 2 awesome Kahutara school kids (ages 6 & 8). If you or someone you know is interested in approximately 10 hours/week of paid childcare, we would love to hear from you!

**Please phone
Cec 0275538711**

Sunday 1st March 2026

Te Maipi Road,
Stronvar Masterton

Signposted from Masterton

**NEW
FARM**

A and B Circuits

Kids track for beginners and younger riders

Adults \$50

Under 13yrs \$25

**NO
SXS**

Lunch is provided

Wainuioru Trail Ride

Riders Briefing: 10.00am

Starts: 10.15am

Proudly brought to you by:



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MASTERTON | GREYTOWN