

TERM 4, 2025 | WEEK 3

KAHUTARA SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



PET DAY 2025

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What a fabulous Pet Day we had this year! Even with a bit of wind, everyone's spirits were high and it was wonderful to see such a wide range of animals on display — from lambs and calves to rabbits, budgies, dogs, and even some creative pet projects. Our students showed fantastic care, attention, and pride in their pets, and it was lovely to see the strong connections they have with their animals.

A huge thank you to KPC for their excellent organisation, and to our judges, stewards, sponsors, and supporters who helped make the day such a success. We had lots of beautiful baking donated which was also very much appreciated. It truly was a great day celebrating our students, their pets, and our community spirit.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

What a busy few weeks we have already had! Pet Day was fantastic, a huge thank you again to all of those who help to make this day a great success. It is a special day for the school and our community, and it was lovely to see so many people here celebrating a great event. Thank you all for getting behind this and supporting us. We are all super grateful to the KPC for all of the work that they have put into Pet Day and organising Bulls for Schools. Thank you Sophie, Tracey, Victoria, Steph, Phil, Devon, Shannon, Jane and Meredith - you are wonderful!

Room 3 students had a lovely evening at Ruamāhanga Farm for Awa After Dark. It was a special opportunity for the student to read some of their poetry and learning with their families – thank you to everyone who came along for the evening. I've included an update on the following page, from Jane Riddiford, about the amazing project 'Reo o te Wai' that students in Room 3 have been involved with over the last two years.

Across the school, students have been completing literacy and maths assessments and taking part in Rippa Rugby sessions. We're also getting ready for the athletics event in Featherston next week, which will be an exciting day for our Year 4-8 students.

The new Board held our first meeting this week, and I'm pleased to announce that Dion Marson is our Presiding Member. I look forward to working alongside Dion Marson, Bridget Sparks, Amy Jaquiere, Stella Chen, Inga Munro and Hugo Handyside in our governance role.

Planning for 2026 is now underway and as part of this, I am working through classroom groupings. Because of the differing sizes of our year groups, we have adjusted the class levels next year to accomodate for this, and to ensure that we can keep class sizes as low as possible.

- Hub 1: Years 6-8 (Teachers: Brooke Sims and Ariana Te Whetu)
- Hub 2: Years 4-6 (Teacher: Inga Munro)
- Room 3: Years 2-4 (Teacher: Lara Hooper)
- Room 5: Years 0-1 (Teacher: Kim Macdonald)

We are still finalising arrangements and will share more details with students and parents in the coming weeks.

Ngā manaakitanga,
Ariana Te Whetu



Welcome to Kahutara School Lyla!



BOOK LAUNCH

Featherston Booktown Trust and Chicken and Frog Bookstore invite you to join them at the

LAUNCH OF A NEW PICTURE BOOK - 'THE LOST STAR OF FEATHERSTON'.

WHEN: SUNDAY, 9 NOVEMBER, 10.30AM
WHERE: ANZAC HALL, SUPPER ROOM

Author Tania Atkinson and Illustrator Viv Walker will be present and morning tea will be served.

The book will be read, and will be available for sale (Special launch price of \$20 cash or bank transfer).

The story is of young Awhina, riding a horse into Featherston in the 1860's; a meteor being tracked by local astronomer Mr Carkeek, and a family of Banded Dotterills!!

It is exciting to have a local story that recognizes our heritage.

REO O TE WAI (RUAMĀHANGA FARM FOUNDATION) AN UPDATE FROM JANE RIDDIFORD



I am excited to share pictures with you of the next phase of our wetland walk. Thanks to funding from the Pain Foundation we were able to install six handsome stiles and think in an expansive way about how we might approach the wayfinding and interpretation signage for the walk. The signs reflect the history of the various farm buildings and they also speak to the kaupapa of what we are now doing, i.e. using what we have and encouraging collaborative creativity.

Along the walk are Te Reo o Te Wai listening posts, with QR codes for accessing two minute readings of poetry written by the tamariki that we have worked with over the last school year from Martinborough and Kahutara Schools. Rod composed and produced the background music for each compilation of poems. As a final celebration for this year's Te Reo o te Wai journey, this last Sunday (just before the storms set in) we co-hosted with the team from Mountains to Sea Wellington and Sam Ludden an Awa after Dark Event. The tamariki stood up proud and shared their poetry with over 50 families and friends. As the dusk turned to dark, they explored the awa with Kara, Rachel and Natasha from MtSW and made clay mokomoko (native lizards) with Sam. Thanks to Pain and Kershaw for providing sausages and the mobile barbecue, big thanks to all the many hands that jumped in to cook and serve them and to Adi who took the photos. How you can get involved:

Friday 14th November - 6pm to 8pm

- We are opening the Ruamāhanga Farm Wetland Walk as part of the Wairarapa Walking Festival on the evening of Friday 14th November: [Book Here](#) on the Festival Website (there are only a few spots left)
- We are also running a walk along the Ruamāhanga to Waihinga bush on Friday 21st November, [book here](#).

If you would like to help us with the finishing touches on the walk and some much needed plant release along the route we would really appreciate your help at our next volunteer morning

- Sunday November 2nd; 9.45 to 12.30

Please make contact if you are coming and let us know if you would like to stay for lunch.

Ngā mihi nui,

Jane 021 02274537



ASSEMBLY CELEBRATIONS



Here are our latest certificate winners - ka mau te wehi. Awesome work Mila, Harley-Rose, Mairangi, Wyatt, Harrison, Kingston, Florence, Lilly, Odin and Lyla!

Assemblies are held on Wednesday afternoons this term and are in Hub 2. Parents are always welcome to attend, they start at 1:45pm.

The next assembly will be on Wednesday in Week 5

STAFF SPOTLIGHT - LIZZIE MCCREARY

LIZZIE IS OUR OFFICE MANAGER AND STARTED WORKING AT KAHUTARA SCHOOL IN 2017

What do you enjoy about working at Kahutara School?

What's not to enjoy?! My colleagues are fun, the students are really cool and our school is one to be proud of.

Best job ever in my opinion!

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

It'd be great if the forecourt area could be resurfaced so students can skate / scooter etc easier, and another exit in the staffroom would be good (with a deck attached 😊 IYKYK).

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

Mrs Rose - my Japanese teacher. She just had a great way of making learning enjoyable.

Where were you born and where did you grow up?

I was born in Masterton but spent my primary years in Pahiatua before moving to the Hawkes Bay.

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

It would be super cool to be able to understand what animals are thinking and feeling, and be able to communicate with them!



IMPORTANT DATES

2025 PET DAY

Week 3

- **Mon 20th Oct** - Board Meeting at 5pm
- **Tues 21st Oct** - Spelling Bee and Booktown Authors visiting Kahutara School
- **Thurs 23rd Oct** - NZEI Strike - (School Closed)
- **Fri 24th Oct** - School Photos from 9am and WBRU running Rippa Rugby with classes - *don't forget to dress your child in their best polo and black shorts/pants*
- **Fri 24th Oct** - Hub 1 Sausage Sizzle

Week 4

- **Mon 27th Oct** - Labour Day (School Closed)
- **Wed 29th Oct** - Featherston Schools Cluster Athletics for Years 4 - 8 students at Featherston Domain
- **Fri 31st Oct** - WBRU running Rippa Rugby with classes
- **Fri 31st Oct** - Hub 1 Sausage Sizzle

Week 5

- **Tues 4th Nov** - Technology for Hub 1
- **Fri 7th Nov** - Hub 1 Sausage Sizzle

Week 6

- **Tues 11th Nov** - Sth Wai Athletics (Masterton)
- **Tues 11th Nov** - Technology for Hub 1
- **Fri 14th Nov** - Hub 1 Sausage Sizzle
- **Sun 16th Nov** - Wai Wheels Car Show and Swap Meet (fundraising for Kahutara Hockey)

Week 7

- **Mon 17th Nov** - Life Ed Lessons this week (with Harold the Giraffe)
- **Tues 18th - Fri 21st Nov** - Book Fair in Old Library
- **Tues 18th Nov** - Technology for Hub 1
- **Fri 21st Nov** - Hub 1 Sausage Sizzle

Week 8

- **Mon 24th Nov** - Board Meeting 5pm
- **Tues 25th Nov** - Regional Athletics (Masterton)
- **Tues 25th Nov** - Technology for Hub 1
- **Wed 26th Nov** - Pack the Bus
- **Thurs 27th Nov** - Surf Lifesaving at Riversdale for Rooms 3 and 4.5
- **Fri 28th Nov** - Hub 1 Sausage Sizzle (last one for the year)

Week 9

- **Mon 30th Nov** - Y8 Moving on Day at Kuranui College Mon 30th Nov - Y7 Hauora Day at Carterton Event Centre
- **Thurs 4th Dec** - Surf Lifesaving at Riversdale for Hub 1 and Hub 2
- **Thurs 4th Dec - Fri 5th Dec** - Hub 1 overnighter at Castlepoint

Week 10

- **Fri 12th Dec** - End of Year Prize Giving 5pm

Week 11

- **Tues 16th Dec** - Last Day of school for all students

2026

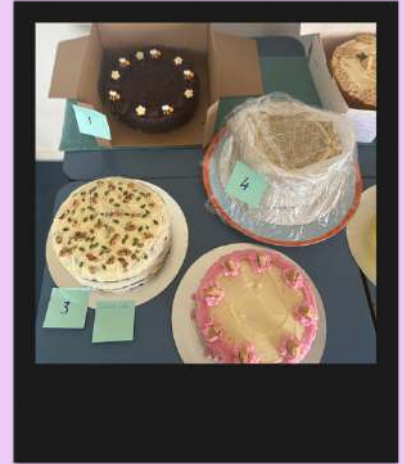
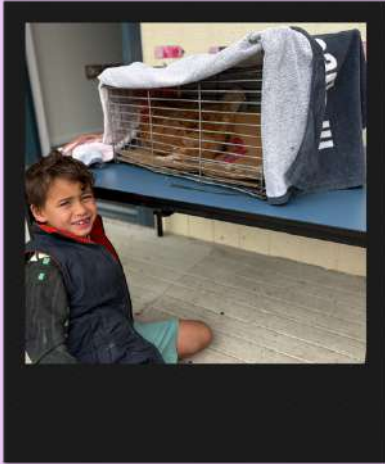
- **Wed 4th Feb 2026** - First day of school for all students
- **Wed 16th Dec 2026** - Last day of school for all students



CONGRATULATIONS



2025 PET DAY



From the KPC - Pet Day 2025

A huge thank you to our wonderful sponsors and everyone who gave prizes, time, and support for our Pet Day. We're also very grateful to our judges and stewards for their efforts, for all the beautiful baking that came in.

We were able to fundraise \$24,800 for the KPC and \$6000 for the Kahutara Community hall!!!

**THANK YOU to all of our 2025
Pet Day sponsors!**

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Thank you to our Bulls for Schools supporters 2025!

*Adam & Aimee Vollebregt
Ben Bosch
Chris & Jess Terry
Damian Olsen
Ed & Mel Handyside
Gavin Green
Hayden & Ginni Thurston
Matt & Tracey Honeysett
Issac Vollebregt
Joe Vollebregt
Josh & Jane Gatenby
Lloyd Rainer
Kaiwaiwai Dairies
Phil Dunlop
Tim & Jo Loe
Wingpoint Dairy
Emma Moffitt
Jimmy & Scarlett Boyle
Anna & Damian Hopkins
Meredith and Gerard Vollebregt*

Virtual Calves

*Phil & Cec Dalziell-Clout
Wilba & Lou Davies
Chris & Bridget Sparks
Dave Anderson
Mitch & Megan Kelly
Kevin Bargh
Rick & Claire Wilkie
Liz & Mike McCreary*

*And to the following people who help with all of the
organisation for Bulls For Schools - Chris Mensen,
Kev Bargh, Mike McCreary, Phil Clout
Shannon and Ricki Daken*