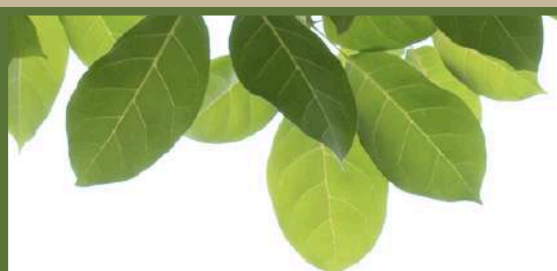


TERM 4, 2025 | WEEK 5

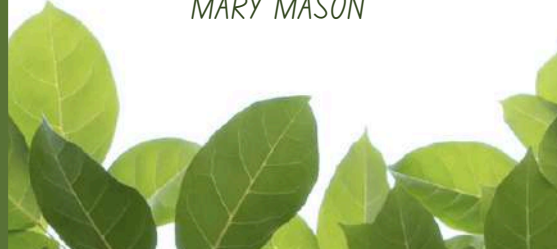
# KAHUTARA SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



## WETLANDS NEWS

Our Hub 1 students started the planting of our 12 new trees that our Environment Leaders chose from Norfolk Nursery last week. Thanks to South Wairarapa Rotary for the grant to purchase these. This just happened to coincide with our first hot day so on return we enjoyed iced cordials to refresh before home time. Thanks to the team who were digging in the hot sun and clearing branches from storm damage.

MARY MASON



## IN THIS NEWSLETTER:

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- STUDENT CELEBRATIONS
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- IMPORTANT DATES
- ATTENDANCE UPDATE



# PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Welcome to Kahutara School  
Cooper!

Kia ora koutou,

A big welcome to Cooper who has just started school and has settled in nicely in Room 5. I am very proud of how well our students care for our new tamariki in the classrooms and also in the playground. Awesome work everyone!

## Swimming

School swimming starts next week! Our school pool is ready to go and the students have been asking when they can get in. Please make sure your child brings their togs and a towel every day so they don't miss out on swimming lessons.

## Hats

It's also that time of year when bucket hats are a must. If your child doesn't have a school hat at the moment, a plain bucket hat is fine for now, but they need to bring them each day.

## Riversdale Beach Ed Trips

A quick reminder to send back the Riversdale Beach Ed permission slip if you haven't already. We're sorting out transport and adult help, so please get those in next week.

## Book Fair

The Book Fair will be set up in the Old Library from Tuesday to Friday next week, open each day until 3:30pm. Come along and check it out – it's a great way to encourage reading and support our school. Students can dress up on **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November for Book Character Day** - we are sorry for the late notice on this! If they aren't able to get a character costume together, they can come along in mufti clothing.

## 2026 Classes

I will be sending letters home next week, confirming classroom arrangements for 2026. A reminder that the organisation for year levels in 2026 will be as follows:

Room 5 - Year 0 and 1

Room 3 - Years 2, 3, 4

Hub 2 - Years 4, 5, 6

Hub 1 - Years 6, 7, 8

Due to large numbers of Year 4 and Year 6 students next year, and some very small year level groups, we are mixing the year levels across the classes so that we can keep all class sizes reasonably even and low. If you have any questions or would like to talk further, you are more than welcome to contact me.

## Farewell to Mary Mason

Some sad news to share...the wonderful Mary Mason will be retiring this year, moving onto bigger and better things! Mary started here as a teacher aide in 2017 and has given so much to the school and students and she has played a huge part in the upkeep and care of the Mangatete Wetlands. Clare Crawford employed her nine years ago to run the Steps Reading Programme for students who needed extra support in Literacy and Mary has continued to do this each year. Mary has done an incredible job teaching students how to care for our school gardens and of course make that delicious lime, lemon and elderflower cordial. We are very grateful for all of the extra time and support that Mary has given to Kahutara School and wish her all the very best for the next stage in her journey. Mary will be finishing on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November.

Ngā mihi,  
Ariana





# Wow!



*MUFTI DAY AND HALLOWEEN - A WINNING COMBO!*



*HAPPY TEACHERS DAY! WELCOME TO THE KAHUTARA DAY SPA*

# ASSEMBLY CELEBRATIONS



Here are our latest certificate winners - ka mau te wehi. Awesome work Te Mauri, Ryan, Evan, Leanne, George, Maggie, Rosie, Cooper, Max and Noah!

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## STAFF SPOTLIGHT - SUZI SCOTT-TE TAU

*Suzi wears many hats at Kahutara School. She has a practising certificate to teach so she is a reliever for us, she is our structured literacy specialist teacher, she is a teacher aide and she is our school cleaner. She is superwoman!*

**What do you enjoy about working at Kahutara School?**

*I like the nice family feel and its like an extension of my whanau.*

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

*I would love to have new recycling bins and a great recycling programme at Kahutara School that our students manage. I've always wanted this!*

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

*Don Miller was a PE teacher at Mākoura College. He was awesome and his commitment to the students was outstanding.*

*He was a teacher that you didn't fully appreciate until you left - he's still teaching there which is awesome!*

**Where were you born and where did you grow up?**

*I was born in Hamilton and grew up in Otorohanga, Wainuiomata and Masterton.*

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

*I would be Elastigirl because she is stretchy and can reach things without having to move or get up haha. Not a great plug for Moov with Sooz but come along on to the community hall for Moov with Sooz on Wednesday nights from 5:45pm - 6:30pm so we can all aspire to be Elastigirl!!!*





# IMPORTANT DATES

## Week 6

- **Tues 11<sup>th</sup> Nov** - Sth Wai Athletics (Masterton)
- **Tues 11<sup>th</sup> Nov** - Technology for Hub 1
- **Tues 11<sup>th</sup> Nov** - Book Fair in Old Library till Fri
- **Thurs 13<sup>th</sup> Nov** - Book Character Dress Up Day
- **Fri 14<sup>th</sup> Nov** - Hub 1 Sausage Sizzle
- **Sun 16<sup>th</sup> Nov** - Wai Wheels Car Show and Swap Meet (fundraising for Kahutara Hockey)

## Week 7

- **Mon 17<sup>th</sup> Nov** - Life Ed Lessons this week (with Harold the Giraffe)
- **Tues 18<sup>th</sup> Nov** - Technology for Hub 1
- **Fri 21<sup>st</sup> Nov** - Hub 1 Sausage Sizzle

## Week 8

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

## Week 9

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

## Week 10

- **Fri 12<sup>th</sup> Dec** - End of Year Prize Giving 5pm

## Week 11

- **Tues 16<sup>th</sup> Dec** - Last Day of school for all students

## 2026

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

## Term 3 Attendance Report

We've received our Term 3 Attendance Report from the Ministry of Education, and it's a good time to share how attendance is measured across New Zealand:

**Regular attendance: over 90% attendance**

**Irregular absence: between 80-90%**

**Moderate absence: between 70-80%**

**Chronic absence: 70% or less**

The Government's goal is that by 2030, 80% of students will be attending school more than 90% of the time. Our Term 3 report shows that only 68% of our students are meeting this goal at the moment, although this is much better than Term 3, 2024 it is still well below what we would like and what is expected. If you are unsure of your child's current attendance rate, please give us a call. We include the attendance rate in the mid-year report and end of year report as well.

We know it can sometimes be tricky deciding if your child is well enough for school, or keeping routines on track. If you're unsure, or if getting your child to school has been a bit of a challenge, please have a chat with us - we're here to help and want to work alongside you to support your child.

### Term 3 Summary

How many students regularly attended school this term?

 Regular Attendance

**68%**

Compared to 46% in Term 3, 2024

 Irregular Absence 18%

Compared to 37% in Term 3, 2024

 Moderate Absence 12%

Compared to 8% in Term 3, 2024

 Chronic Absence 3%

Compared to 10% in Term 3, 2024

### What were the main reasons given for absence this term?

1.  (M) Illness / Medical Absence 61%
2.  (G) Holiday 14%
3.  (E) Accepted (but unjustified) 11%
4.  (J) Explained and Approved 9%
5.  (T) Unexplained / Trivial 5%