

KAHUTARA SCHOOL

TERM 4 NEWSLETTER 2025



YEAR 8 LEAVERS 2025

Last week, we held our Year 8 leavers' dinner at Brakenridge to celebrate Jade, Bailey, Kingston, Jensen, Ryan, Angus and Paige. It was a lovely evening, shared with parents and whānau, celebrating the journey these students have taken with us.

At our end-of-year prizegiving, we presented each Year 8 student with their pounamu, carved by Toi Walker, who has a special connection with our school and our students. Toi carved a kōuma, a breastplate for Jade, Bailey and Paige, which symbolises protection, strength, resilience and guardianship. Worn over their hearts, it signifies inner power, balance and the nurturing values for future generations. For Ryan, Angus and Kingston, he carved a niho, which is modelled after a whale or shark tooth. It symbolises strength, leadership, protection, and resilience. For Jensen, who received the Kathleen Pearce Memorial Dux Award, he carved a toki, symbolising mana, reverence, strength and bravery. These taonga were given so that our taura (students) know that they will always be connected to our kura, and to support them as they move into the next chapter of their learning journey.

Ryan Chen's final words in his speech at prizegiving were, *"Thank you for the lessons, the laughs, and the memories. We arrived as little kids, and we're leaving as young adults, ready for our next adventure."*

All the best - we wish you every success!

YEAR 8 LEAVERS



Jensen Ormsby



Jade Brown



Bailey Seerden

YEAR 8 LEAVERS



Paige Clement



Angus Anderson



Kingston Amo-Pearce

YEAR 8 LEAVERS



Ryan Chen



FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Tēnā koutou katoa,

Our end-of-year prizegiving was a wonderful celebration of learning, growth and community at Kahutara School. It was a special event to acknowledge our Year 8 students as they have come to the end of their primary school journey and prepare to head off to Kuranui College. We wish them every success and know they will always remain part of our Kahutara School whānau. To the Amo-Pearce and Brown whānau, whose youngest children are finishing at Kahutara, thank you for working alongside us to support Kingston and Jade during their time here. To the Anderson whānau - thank you for your many years of commitment to our school. With Jaeda, Amber, and Angus all coming through Kahutara, your support has been constant, appreciated, and felt across our community.

Throughout 2025, our students have worked hard across the refreshed curriculum, strengthening literacy through the iDeaL approach and developing mathematical thinking with Pr1me Mathematics, alongside rich environmental learning through our gardens, the Mangatete Wetlands and Reo o te Wai. We have held some fantastic events at school this year, hosting a successful Featherston Cluster Cross Country, and our KPC coordinated a fabulous Pet Day. As part of fundraising for World Vision, our student leaders organised '1898 Day' where we jumped back in time to 'try' to operate the school like it was in 1898, with no power or digital technology. Room 3 had the privilege of visiting Hau Ariki Marae, and our Kapa roopu (group) had a special noho marae at Kohunui Marae, as part of our preparation for the South Wairarapa Kapa Haka festival.

I would like to thank our Board of Trustees: Hugo Handyside, Bridget Sparks, Amy Jaquiery, Stella Chen and Inga Munro for their dedication and support. I look forward to working with our new Board and continuing to lead our school forward. A special thank you to Victoria Shaw for her six years of leadership as Presiding Member. Victoria has been incredibly supportive, encouraging, and always puts the needs of our students first. The Kahutara community is hugely appreciative of the contribution that she has made and for the positive changes that she has helped to bring about for our school.

Our KPC, led by Sophie McGilligan, provide generous financial support to our school, and this year this has helped to fund teacher aide hours, buses for school trips, new Kapa Haka uniforms, maths resources, a new pump for our school pool, Riversdale Beach Ed Days and Life Education lessons with Harold - and the opportunity to paint new games on our courts. Our students helped to select the games that will be painted, and this work will be completed over the summer holidays. The funding that the KPC provides for the school helps us to provide our students with lots of extra support and opportunities, so a big thank you to our KPC members and to all of the families and community members who support the fundraising opportunities.

And finally, thank you to the team here at Kahutara School - Lizzie, Inga, Brooke, Lara, Kim, Jane, Becky, Riki, Suzi, Sandie and Shannon. We have worked hard to implement some important changes this year. It is great to work with a positive and supportive team - have a well-deserved break.

I wish you all a safe and happy Christmas, and I hope you can spend more time with whānau and friends. I look forward to seeing our students and whānau again in 2026, and to those students who are finishing with us, all the very best wishes in the next stage of your journey.

Ariana Te Whetu

2025 PRIZE-GIVING

Thank you to Wilba Davies for providing an impressive Christmas tree, again, for our students to enjoy at prize-giving. Our Year 8 students loved the opportunity to decorate this, and they were supported this year with some beautiful decorations made by our tamariki in Room 4.5!



*Kathleen Pearce
Memorial Dux Award*
Jensen Ormsby



*Cranleigh Lea
Memorial Prize*
Ryan Chen



Kumenga Cup
Bailey Seerden



Te Matau a Maui Award
Paige Clement



*Ruamāhanga
Restoration Trust Award*
Margot Delaney



Lesley Duncan Award
Jade Brown

2025 PRIZE-GIVING



*Leon Roberts
Memorial Shield*
Ava McGilligan



Nix Cup
Ryan Chen



*Sewing Technology
Award*
Jade Brown



*Lodge Waihinga
Citizenship Award*
Bailey Seerden



*Shane White
Memorial Cup*
Kingston Amo-Pearce



McRae Cup
Jesse Honeysett

Principal Cup
Angus Anderson

CLASSROOM AWARDS



JESSE
TERM 4 AWARD



CHARLOTTE
TERM 4 AWARD



BEN
END OF YEAR AWARD



AVA
END OF YEAR AWARD



INDIE
TERM 4 AWARD



EVAN
TERM 4 AWARD



HOPE
END OF YEAR AWARD



HUNTER
END OF YEAR AWARD



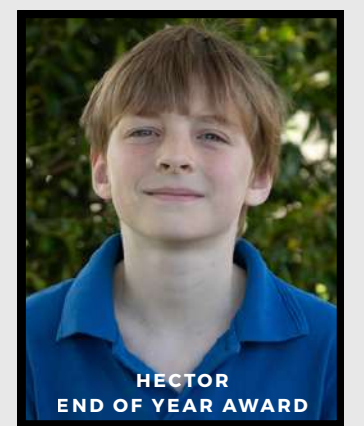
INDY
TERM 4 AWARD



TE AHU
TERM 4 AWARD



MARGOT
END OF YEAR AWARD



HECTOR
END OF YEAR AWARD



FLETCHER
TERM 4 AWARD



ZARA
TERM 4 AWARD



IZZY
END OF YEAR AWARD



RAKAI
END OF YEAR AWARD

2026 STUDENT LEADERS



PB4L AWARDS



TERM POINTS

	1	2	3	4	Total
Kōwhiri	380	286	220	302	1188
Tōhono	358	217	221	279	1075
Wāhine	280	324	243	227	1074
Whānau	305	259	277	185	1026

Winning House 2025 - Kowhai



K-Card Winners & Hugo Handyside, Presiding Member
Marlee, George, Flynn, Georgia





***Thank you, Wai Wheels, for the very generous donation of \$2,500 for hockey gear!
A special thank you to Dion and Steph Marson for supporting this.***



Victoria Shaw, Presiding Member of the Kahutara School Board 2019 - 2025

BEACH EDUCATION - HUB 1 AND HUB 2





OTHER CELEBRATIONS



Congratulations to Leanne, who achieved some great results at her tap dance competition recently! Leanne received awards as a Champion Studio Dancer and an award for New Zealand Champion



South Wai KIDS TRI

SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL
Kia Reetahi Tārua

Contact Ella for any questions:
ella@kiahakinakina.co.nz

South Wairarapa!
We're excited to bring a Kids Triathlon to your community!

Where: Featherston Pool / Card Reserve
Who: Ages 5–13 years
When: Wednesday, 4th February 2026 | Approx. 5:30pm start (finish time depends on entries)
Register your child today and let them take part in this fun, active event!
\$10 per child

Register here: <https://forms.gle/VE4PDqyfJCfBKYqB8>




It would be great to see our students competing at this event next year. It will be held on Wednesday, 4th February 2026, which is our first day back at school.

This is the first time that this event has been run in South Wairarapa, and we would love to see more events like this, so please get behind it and sign your child up if they are interested!

Registering your child:
<https://forms.gle/5EcSPx3vCbr9FfWM9>

Registering as a volunteer:
<https://forms.gle/YjW6VsnGPw8xsrKMA>

IMPORTANT DATES 2026

Term 1

- **Wednesday 4th Feb** - First Day of School
- **Friday 6th Feb** - Waitangi Day (Public Holiday)
- **Monday 9th Feb** - New carpet being installed in all classrooms over the next two weeks
- **Tuesday 3rd March** - Featherston Cluster Swimming
- **Wednesday 4th March** - Goodtime Music Academy performing at school
- **Tuesday 10th March** - Year 7 & 8 Technology
- **Monday 16th March** - Year 6,7,8 visiting Te Ore Ore Marae in Masterton
- **Friday 3rd April** - Last Day of Term 1