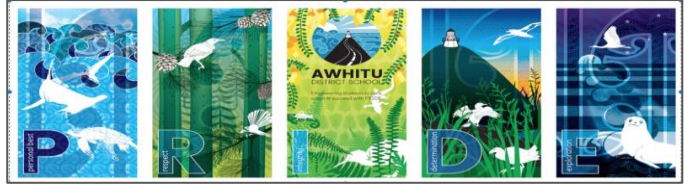




**AWHITU**  
DISTRICT SCHOOL



Empowering students to care, adapt and succeed with PRIDE

**No 1 Wednesday 5th February 2025**

Happy new year everyone. I hope everyone in our community had a great holiday break and were able to enjoy time with friends, whanau and family. Our team here at Awhitu District School is feeling refreshed and ready to go for the 2025 year and loved welcoming everyone back on Tuesday, followed by a powhiri to welcome our new teacher, Mrs Tania Wheatley who will be teaching our Yr 1 students, and for Mr Paul Humphrey who is relieving in the Yr 7/8 class for Term 1!

**2025 Teaching Staff**

Megan Allen	Principal principal@awhitu.school.nz
Tania Wheatley	KIWI Rm 1 (Yr 0/1) taniaw@awhitu.school.nz
Jenny Williams	HONU Rm 2 (Yr 2/3/4) jennyw@awhitu.school.nz
Debra Torpey	TAKAHE Rm 3 (Yr 4/5) debrat@awhitu.school.nz
Deby Andrews	TUI Rm 4 (Yr 5/6/7) debya@awhitu.school.nz
Paul Humphrey	TOROA Rm 6 (Yr 7/8) paulh@awhitu.school.nz

The 2025 School Student Leaders were elected at the end of last year. Congratulations to:

**Student Leaders**

**Keenan Bowden and Bonnie Dodd**

**House Leaders**

Kaiwhare: **Eden Torpey** Turamarama: **Kyah Torpey** Poarae: **Cody Conwell**  
Paratutae: **Aiden Monteith**

There are many exciting things happening this year, starting with a "Building Healthy Communities" topic study and with Wynn Goodwin and Ngati Kaihau completing the "Welcome Garden" at the main entrance to the school.

There will be a brief, Whole School Assembly this Friday at 2pm to celebrate the first week at school!

**We will be having our annual "Welcome Back Picnic" on Thursday 13th February at 5.00pm - 6.00pm.**

**Please come along, bring a picnic dinner or takeaways, play some games and catch up with friends and meet the teachers.**

Junior and Senior School Swimming Sports are coming up too. More information on this will be coming home soon.

Over the holidays, the school has had some buildings painted, including the Pavilion (now blue) and the Cottage (red)! These now look smart and refreshed thanks to our local painters, Mark and Josh Reeve. There have been some building modifications carried out as well around school including a handrail down to the pool and some steps inside the pool area to make it easier to get down from the seating area and extra steps added to the pool ladders and extra handrails installed. These modifications should be finished by next week.

**Technology classes** at View road School for the **Yr 7 & 8's** will begin next Friday, 14th February. Please read the letter sent home with your child today.

**Parent Conferences:** These will be held in Week 3, Thursday 20th February, 3pm - 7pm.



**Hats:** In Term 1 and 4, all students are required to wear hats when outside. If your child doesn't have one, they will stay on the deck in the shade during break times. Hats must be a bucket or wide brimmed style to provide optimal protection from the sun.

## IMPORTANT NOTICES TO START A NEW YEAR

- There will be new changes to our bus message system, moving forward. We ask that you text our mobile phone 0275247338 for after school bus changes, parent pickup etc. Please no email messages. Text 0275247338 before 1pm or can leave a message on school landline 2351005.
- Late messages happen but we ask for you to try and keep within this timeframe so after school bus organising by staff can run smoothly for everyone.
- Please inform the school of any changes to your emergency contact number, email address and home address - keep us updated.
- If your child is going to be absent from school, please contact the school office 2351005, txt 0275247338 or use the Skool Loop App. Students will be marked as being Truant by the Ministry of Education.
- If you haven't yet joined us on The Skool Loop App (see information below).

Our school app is : The Skool Loop App. It is important to download this to be kept informed of school information and events.

- The free school app you will love! Communicate immediately and effectively with your school smartphone app.
- Streamlines all of your school communications to your school community.
- send newsletters, instant messages, notices, school events etc to the school parents in one quick convenient, easy way!
- The Skool Loop App is fully functional and absolutely free to schools. Please make sure you turn the app on when you download it onto your phone.

School newsletters and notices are published on the school website and on the Skool Loop App every fortnight. A hard copy is not usually sent home, however a hard copy of this initial newsletter will be sent home with the eldest child of each school family. If you do require a hard copy all the time, please inform Nona. Copies are also available in the school office. Notices are also posted on the school Facebook page.

**Thank you to everyone who has purchased their children's stationery so far this year.** That's great and it allows teachers to get classroom programmes underway promptly. If you have any problems please contact your child's teacher.

**School Lunches: Available on Monday and Fridays only.**

Small Big Ben Pies - S&C, M&C \$3.70 Large Big Ben Pies S&C, M&C \$4.80

Small Butter Chicken \$3.70, Large Butter Chicken \$4.80, No 8 Pie Mince \$5.40

Sausage Rolls Original OR Cheese \$3.70, Mouse Trap - Spaghetti, Ham, Cheese \$2.00

Ham Salad Bun - \$4.50, Chicken Salad Bun - \$4.80, Small Cookie \$2.00, Fruit \$1.20

Yoghurt Pouch - Chocolate OR BERRIES-Strawberry etc. \$1.80,

**FRIDAY LUNCH ONLY** - Fish & Chips \$5, Nuggets & Chips \$4, Hot Chips \$3,

Lasagne Topper \$3.20, Chicken Burger - \$5.50, Fish Burger \$6.50.

**Awhitu District School will host an open day on Friday the 28th February to celebrate the belated 75th Anniversary of the school which opened in 1949. Everyone is welcome from 10.30am to come to school, see the classrooms and attend an assembly and share some food.**

Although it seems a long way off, the **Annual Easter Auction will be held on Easter Saturday 19th April 2025**. More information will be published about this later, but get sorting and putting things aside for the day!

**The 2025 Awhitu District School Board**

Presiding Member: Cheney McGlynn

Principal: Megan Allen

Staff Rep: Lisa Pritchard

Members: Kerry Torpey, Michael Oldfield, Leigh Maffey(on leave)

**HUGE NEWS**

After 35 years of unwavering dedication and hard work, Nona is retiring from her role as Office Administrator. Over the decades, she has been the heart of our school, offering not just her expertise, but also her kindness, patience, and warmth. From handling the daily operations with grace to always being there for students, teachers, and staff alike, she has created an environment that truly feels like home.

Her attention to detail, reliability, and tireless commitment have made her an invaluable part of our school community. Whether it was a question, a concern, or a special request, Nona always handled it with a smile and a positive attitude, making everyone feel supported and cared for.

Though we will deeply miss her presence in the office, we are excited for the next chapter in her life, knowing that her legacy of kindness, hard work, and dedication will remain with us always. Thank you, Nona, for everything you've done. Your impact on our school and our hearts will never be forgotten. Wishing you all the happiness and relaxation that you so truly deserve in your retirement!

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After 11 years of dedicated service to Awhitu District School, our caretaker Anau Kauta'i has decided to retire from the caretaking position. I'd like to take this opportunity, on behalf of our school and the Awhitu District School Board, to thank him so much for his hard work over the years keeping Awhitu District School looking cared for and amazing. Many thanks Anau, we wish you well for the future.

Until next time, keep safe out there and enjoy the beautiful summer weather!

***Ngā mihi nui***

***Megan Allen and the team at Awhitu District School.***

Phone: 092351005

## **Job Opportunity: School Caretaker (Part-Time)**

Are you handy with tools and passionate about maintaining a clean, tidy, safe, and well-run environment?

We are looking for a dedicated and reliable caretaker to join our team at Awhitu District School. This part-time position offers a great opportunity to make a positive impact in our school and community.

### **Position Details:**

- Hours: 7:00 AM - 11:00 AM, weekly
- Location: Awhitu District School, 14 Matakawau Road, Awhitu.

### **Key Responsibilities:**

- Ensuring the school grounds and facilities are clean, safe, and well-maintained, including mowing and weed control.
- General caretaking duties, including light cleaning, rubbish removal, gardening and basic repairs.
- Maintaining the school pool, ensuring cleanliness and chemical balance.
- Assisting with minor building maintenance and mechanical tasks.
- Ensuring the health and safety of the school environment by complying with MOE, Auckland Council and ARGEST standards.

### **Essential Skills and Experience:**

- Basic building, mechanical, and handyman skills.
- Reliable, proactive, and able to work independently.
- Attention to detail and a strong sense of responsibility.
- Hold a current NZ Drivers Licence.
- Undertake NZ Police Vetting.
- Previous experience in caretaking or maintenance roles will be an advantage.

If you're looking for a flexible role that lets you contribute to a positive school environment, we'd love to hear from you! Please email your CV and a brief cover letter to:

Cheney McGlynn (Presiding Member)

Awhitu District School Board

Awhitu District School

admin@awhиту.school.nz

Phone: 09 235-1005

Applications Close: 5pm Friday 17th February 2025