



Week 10 Monday 11th December 2023

School Phones: 092351005 or txt: 0275247338

*Kia ora to all our whaanau and families.*

**Yr 5 - 8 Camp** What an awesome time everyone had at camp last week. They were lucky with the weather too! A huge thank you to our teachers for organising this and to the incredible parent helpers, whom without their support, we couldn't have held it. Thank you so much.

**Junior EOTC activities** While the senior students were away on camp, the junior students did some fun activities themselves like making decorations for our upcoming prize giving, making salt dough decorations for Christmas, having popcorn and a movie, enjoying the pool and fun water activities. They are planning for an exciting trip early next year!

### **Powhiri Wednesday 13th December at 12pm**

Over the last 2 terms, some of our students have been involved in learning about, and taken on leadership roles to bring a Powhiri to all our school families, whaanau, parents, caregivers of Awhitu District School. Please come along to this Powhiri and celebration at the school pavilion on **Wednesday 13th December at 12pm** and enjoy a cup of tea/coffee and some kai! Thank you to Matua T and Wynn Goodwin for this.

To all our amazing helpers and parents that have volunteered their time to the school, we are inviting you to this event to say a huge thank you for your help. Without your help, many school events would never be able to happen. Thank you so much!



**Thank you!**

We would like to invite you to a powhiri in the Awhitu School Pavilion to thank you for the numerous times you have helped on in a variety of ways at school this year to support our students and staff. We really do appreciate your support.

Date: Wednesday 13th December  
Time: 12pm - 2pm

From the Awhitu School Staff

# School Prize Giving

**This starts promptly at 6pm at the Matakawau Hall on Wednesday 13th December. Please have your students here by 5.45pm**

## School Organisation for 2024

Unfortunately, we will be losing Kirstie Maclaine at the end of the year. The Ministry of Education gave us an extra teacher, only for this year, to compensate for the disruptions from covid-19, the previous year. Her position was only ever for one year, and it was over and above our staffing entitlement of 5 teachers. Therefore, it is with sadness that we will be farewelling Kirstie Maclaine at the end of this year. Kirstie has been an outstanding and valuable member of our school and we thank her for her commitment to the students and to Awhitu District School this year. We will miss her energy, humour immensely. At this stage, the classes for 2024 will be organised as follows. Decisions about the organisation are based on the number of students that are in each year level and how they can be best accommodated for.

**Room 4:** Mrs Deby Andrews: Yr 1/2

**Room 6:** Whaea Elaine Kauta'i: Yr 4/5

**Room 3:** Mrs Jenny Williams: Yr 3

**Room 2:** Miss Jessica Sweeney: Yr 6/7/8

**Room 1:** Whaea Deb Torpey: Yr 6/7/8

Next year the school timetable will change. We will be having one morning break at 10.30am and a lunch break at 12.30pm.

Students will also be designing our entrance "Welcome Garden" and the gardens around the school admin area, with the \$10,000 funding from the St Andrews Trust Grant and we will be planting up the fenced off wastewater dripper field.

**Jacqui's Swimming lessons** Jacqui Waldegrave is going to be doing a week of swimming lessons in the school holidays. This will be from the 15th to the 19th of January 2024. Please contact Jacqui on 02102379566.

## Important Notice

Our cyclical maintenance painting programme has just been finalised. Over the summer holidays the following exterior painting projects will be happening around the school:

The school pool changing shed complex and caretaker's shed, the main classroom block (Rms 1-4) and admin area exteriors are going to be painted. Therefore areas of the school will be closed off for the contractors to be able to do their painting safely and efficiently. Please respect their notices. Therefore, the school pool will need to be closed until the middle of January. Families will be notified by etap, when the pool will be reopened and a date will be given to come to school and purchase a pool key tag. Sorry for the inconvenience.

**The last day of school for this year is Friday the 15th December. School finishes at 12.30pm. School buses will run as normal in the morning, and will be here at school at the earlier time of 12.30pm to take students home. There will be no school lunches on this day.**

# Awhitu District School Merchandise is now available.

**Sweatshirts, hoodies and t-shirts are now available with our school logo printed on them!** You can even have your name printed on the back, no more losing clothing at school! They will be great to wear to school everyday or to other combined school events, or just proudly representing our school while out and about! These are available in child/youth, women's, and men's sizes.

All the school merchandise is dark navy (with one grey marle option). Some of the pictures on the website may look black, but they are all navy.

**IMPORTANT:** When ordering, it is important to remember to change the 'NAME' to the name you want printed (shown below in red). If you don't want your name on the back of your merch, delete the word "NAME". (The company printing the merch has advised that they usually pick it up if it still says "NAME" and will contact the purchaser to double-check whether they missed changing it, but if they get busy, they can't guarantee it – and you won't get a refund if done wrong).

This is on-going fundraising for our school, as with each order the school receives a small monetary return.



**This is the link for the website to order your clothing:** <https://awhitudistrictschool.digitees.co.nz/>

Here is a link to show you the ordering process: [Click link here for video.](#)

**Disclaimer:** *If you have any issues with products, please contact Digitees direct, not the school.*

Thanks so much to Chéney McGlynn for organising this.

Remaining Term 4 Dates to Remember		
Week 10	Tuesday 12th December	Yr 8 Social Dance at Waiuku College
Week 10	Wednesday 13th December	Powhiri at 12pm in the pavilion
Week 10	Wednesday 13th December	School Prize Giving at 6pm. Please have your children here by 5.40pm. School reports home.
Week 10	Friday 15th December	End of Term 4 at 12.30pm. There will be no school lunches for this Friday. Buses will be at school at 12.30pm.
<b>School begins on Wednesday the 7th February 2024 at 8.20am.</b>		

*Nga mihi nui*

*The Team at Awhitu District School*

Next year's major fundraiser 'EASTER AUCTION'

**Easter Saturday 30th March 2024**

**We need your help!!**



**The Easter Auction 2024**

It would be really great if we could have an Easter Auction in 2024. This would be held on **Easter Saturday the 30th March**. The Easter Auction has been the main fundraising event for the school for over 30 years. All children in our school benefit directly from the funds raised at this event. It would be really sad to have to end this tradition. To be able to hold the auction though, we need volunteers to help to organise it. We need your help please!

**Please fill in the slip below and return it to the school office if you are able to help in any way.**

**Easter Auction Volunteers**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

## ***School parent/whaanau/caregivers Consultation 2023***

To all our Whanau and families. Please take some time to consider the questions below.

The school board always wants to see how to preserve the school's performance, values and history, but always wants to look forward to improving the outcomes for our students. Also, please complete the Health & PE survey on the back of the page.

**What do you like/value about Awhitu District School and would like to see it continue?**

*E.g. Easter Auction, Calf Club*

**What are some new ideas/initiatives you would like to see happen at Awhitu District School?**

*E.g. School Uniform*

**What would help you know how your child is progressing with their learning?**

**Home and school communication ideas.** We currently have regular school newsletters, skool loop notifications, direct emails from teachers and staff to parents and caregivers, text messaging to parents/caregivers, our website and a school facebook page.

**How could our communication be improved?**

## **Health & PE Survey 2023**

We are wanting your thoughts around the content of the Health & PE curriculum at Awhitu District School. There are four strands and seven key areas of learning within the Health & PE curriculum.

Health & PE education is taught either alongside other curriculum areas or, at times, maybe integrated onto other topics. While there are a considerable number of topics listed, time dictates that besides PE lessons, only a handful of Health topics can be included in any one year. The aim is to have covered all of these areas by the time the student leaves Awhitu District School.

We would like your thoughts on how you rate the importance of the good health, well-being and hauora of our students.

Please read them through and rate them from 1 - 3 in the box beside each area :

- 1 = Very important
- 2 = Of some importance
- 3 = Least important
- 4 = Against

Please note that some areas are more pertinent with students further up the school.

Personal Health & Physical development		Movement Concepts & Motor Skills		Relationships with other people		Healthy Communities and Environments	
Gross & Fine Motor Skills		Daily fitness		Keeping Ourselves Safe		Fire Safety/First aid	
Oral Health		Swimming & Water Safety		Kia Kaha (anti bullying)		Road Safety	
Food & Nutrition		Kiwisport skills Eg Cricket Tennis Hockey		Drug & alcohol resistance programme 7/8		Bike Safety	
Sun Smart		Run, Jump, Throw (athletics skills)		Careers		Dog Safety	
Pubertal change Self-esteem Stereotypes (Yr 5 - 8)		Cross country		Education outside the classroom and camps		Civil Defence	
Gender diversity Sexuality Education		Large ball skills eg rugby, soccer, netball		Roles and Responsibilities		Water Safety	

Further comments:

**Thank you for your comments. Please return the completed surveys to the school office.**

## Exciting Opportunity: Expression of Interest

The school has been approached by a company called *STEAM Academy by William and Stanley*. They have specialised technology teachers who will come out to our school, provide all the equipment and resources needed for delivering technology lessons to your child/ren.

They already operate in several Franklin schools. Their programme is designed to make a positive impact within schools, running for a duration of six weeks each term, either during or after school hours. They have begun this initiative as many small rural schools like Awhitu District School do not have the range of specialised technical equipment and expertise to deliver these lessons like they can.

**“Our STEAM classes are specifically tailored to the needs and interests of primary school students, with engaging and interactive lessons that are sure to spark their curiosity and imagination. Our experienced instructors are passionate in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math, and they are excited about inspiring the next generation of innovators and problem solvers. Our educators are passionate, qualified, NZ Police vetted professionals with industry STEAM and educational backgrounds.**

**The STEAM Academy for children, powered by William & Stanley, empowers young minds to flourish and excel in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math. We do this by teaching Coding, Robotics, Design, Electronics, Engineering and Programming. Our students learn a range of design thinking strategies using critical thinking, animation, gamification, the concept of artificial intelligence complimented through value-based learning, hands-on testing, real world concepts and ethical applications. We assist our students to thrive in STEAM by using up to date technology platforms and programmes as enablers. Our educators are passionate, qualified, NZ Police vetted professionals with industry STEAM and educational backgrounds.**

**Our program is designed to make a positive impact within schools, running for a duration of six weeks each term, either during or after school hours.”**

**This is not funded by the Ministry of Education though, and parents/caregivers pay for the lessons.**

**We understand the importance of accessibility, which is why we offer our program at a low cost to ensure that more students can participate. We also recognise that financial difficulties can be a barrier for some families, so we are committed to providing financial support when possible to those in need, ensuring that every student has the opportunity to benefit from our program's offerings.**

There are different payment options. The options this year have been \$7.90 a week over the year, \$92 per term or \$370.00 for the year. For more information please go to their website : [www.williamandstanley.co.nz](http://www.williamandstanley.co.nz)

Email [info@williamandstanley.co.nz](mailto:info@williamandstanley.co.nz)

Phone: 09 963 0960

*If you are interested and think you would like your child to participate in this programme please complete the slip below and return it to the school office. We need a minimum of 50 students to make it viable for them to come to Awhitu District School.*

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**11/12/23**

**STEAM Academy Lessons (Expression of Interest)**

Name of student: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact number: \_\_\_\_\_