WHANGĀREI PRIMARY SCHOOL'S NEWSLETTER

Ph. 09 438 3186
office@whangareiprimary.school.nz

Newsletter No. 17
Tuesday, 17th of November, 2026

Principal's Address for the Newsletter - Week 6 - Term 4

Tēnā koutou katoa, Whānau and Community,

It is hard to believe we are already just over halfway through what has been a wonderfully busy and action-packed term!

Thank You to Our Whānau & Community

A massive thank you to all the parents, caregivers, and community members who have given their time and energy to support our school trips this term. Whether you joined us for the Junior Beach trip, helped out at the **Middles' Sailing days at Parua Bay and swimming sessions at the Aquatic Centre**, or braved the water for the **Seniors' Snorkel trips to Taurikura**, we simply could not offer these rich, hands-on experiences without your tautoko (support). Thank you for helping make these memories possible for our tamariki.

What's Coming Up for the Rest of the Term

Even though we are past the halfway mark, there is still plenty to look forward to as we head toward the end of the year:

- **Senior Surfing Trips:** Our senior classes will be hitting the waves over the coming weeks for their surfing sessions.
- **Friday 20 November** – Whangārei Primary School Athletics Day: All Year 3–6 students will be competing at the Kensington Athletics Stadium.
- **Friday 27 November** – Whangārei Music Festival: Our talented ukulele players will take the stage to represent our kura.
- **Thursday 3 December** – Whole School End-of-Year Concert & Picnic (5:00 PM – 7:00 PM): Bring a picnic dinner and enjoy performances from across the school on the stage in front of Te Whare.
- **Tuesday 8 December** – Year 6 Graduation Ceremony (5:00 PM – 6:00 PM): A special evening to celebrate and farewell our Year 6 leaders as they prepare for intermediate.
- **Tuesday 15 December** – End-of-Term "Remarkable Citizenship Hui" (10:00 AM – 11:00 AM): Our final celebration hui of the year to recognise the remarkable learners in our school.

Stay Connected

Please keep an eye on **Seesaw, SkoolLoop** and **our school Facebook page** over the next few weeks for specific details and reminders regarding these events.

Ngā mihi nui,

Matua Danny

Principal

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Term Dates for 2027
Term 1 - Tuesday 2 Feb - Friday 9 April
Term 2 - Tuesday 27 April - Friday 2 July
Term 3 - Monday 19 July - Friday 24 September
Term 4 - Monday 11 October - Thursday 16 December

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A Notice from our Junior Syndicate

WHANGAREI PRIMARY SCHOOL

Open afternoon

You and your child are invited to come along to our open afternoon.
Come and:

- Meet the teachers
- See where your child will be going to school in 2027
- Meet other parents and children
- Look through the classroom

WHANGAREI PRIMARY SCHOOL

DATE: 24/11/2026	TIME: 4:30 to 5:30pm
PLACE: 155 Bank Street, Whangarei	
Please park in Cross Street and enter through that gate	

Any questions phone: 09 4383 186

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SCHOOL END OF YEAR CONCERT

WHANGAREI PRIMARY SCHOOL

THURSDAY 3RD DECEMBER
5PM - 7PM

Join us to celebrate a remarkable year and watch our students perform!

Come along and share a picnic with our school community!

Sausage Sizzle for CHILDREN!

Performances by students across all year levels.

DARE TO BE REMARKABLE

POLICE VETTING FOR 2027 CAMPS!



As part of our policy, parents staying overnight on school trips require a police check. If you are intending to attend camp as parent help, please complete the police vetting process before the end of the 2026 school year.

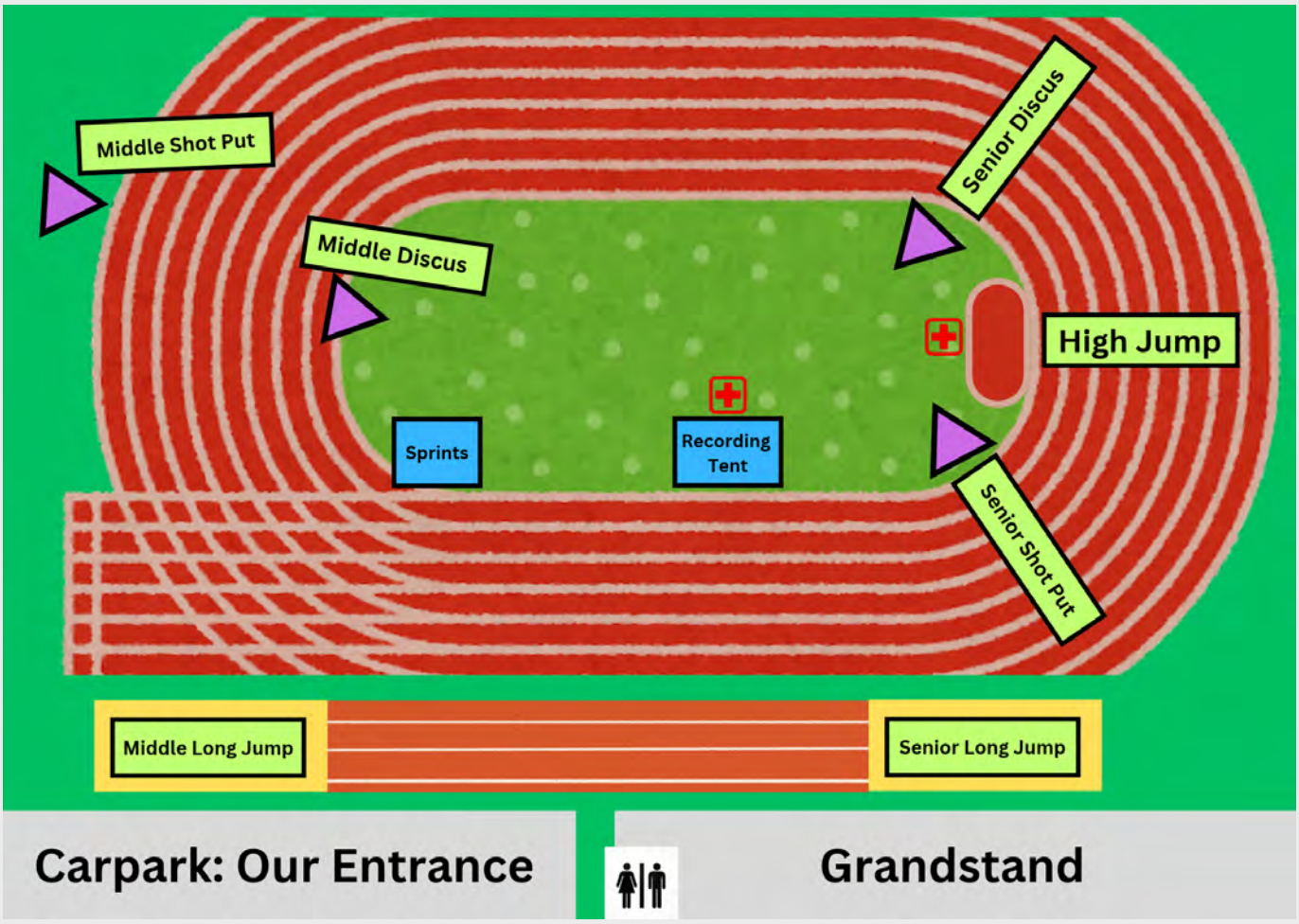
Police Vetting forms can be collected from the office!

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2026 ATHLETICS SCHEDULE

	9:50 - 10:40AM	10:40 - 11:30AM	11:30 - 11:45AM	11:45 - 12:35PM	12:35 - 1:25PM	1:25 - 1:45PM	1:45 - 2:05PM
YEAR 3 BOYS	Sprints/ High Jump	Shot Put	Morning Tea Break	Long Jump	Discus	House Relays	Lunch & Certificates
YEAR 3 GIRLS	Shot Put	Long Jump		Discus	Sprints/ High Jump		
YEAR 4 BOYS	Discus	Sprints/ High Jump		Shot Put	Long Jump		
YEAR 4 GIRLS	Long Jump	Discus		Sprints High Jump	Shot Put		
YEAR 5 BOYS	Long Jump	Discus		High Jump/ Sprints	Shot Put		
YEAR 5 GIRLS	Discus	High Jump/ Sprints		Shot Put	Long Jump		
YEAR 6 BOYS	High Jump/ Sprints	Shot Put		Long Jump	Discus		
YEAR 6 GIRLS	Shot Put	Long Jump		Discus	High Jump Sprints		

Please note: No children are to be taken home directly from the Athletics Complex. They must return to school with their class and be picked up from there.

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Enviro Encounters

At the end of October a group of 10 of the Enviro Team attended the annual Enviro Encounters event run by NRC Enviroschools. This year it was held at Heritage Park and the theme was Tides of Wellbeing. We participated in 4 activities:

Taonga puoro - Connect to the taiao through Māori instruments

Mau rakau - Learn outdoors in an activity of strength and skill

Ka whai manawaroa - Grow resilience through repairing and restoring

Ringa Manaaki - Use natural materials to build a hangi fire





Hangi building





Learning about fixing tractors down at the vintage workshop



Traditionsl instruments



Mau rakau

This is a great annual event that we attend. We always come away having learnt new skills and met new people.

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ESOL Celebrating Culture

Our ESOL students proudly celebrated Cultural Day by wearing traditional clothing representing their cultures and countries. They then explored the world of fashion design, using their traditional outfits as inspiration to create their own unique fashion designs. Each student personalised their design by adding information about their outfit, sharing its cultural significance, and including their country's flag. It was a wonderful opportunity for students to celebrate their identities, share their heritage, express their creativity and learn more about the diversity within our school community. We are so proud of them for sharing a little piece of who they are!

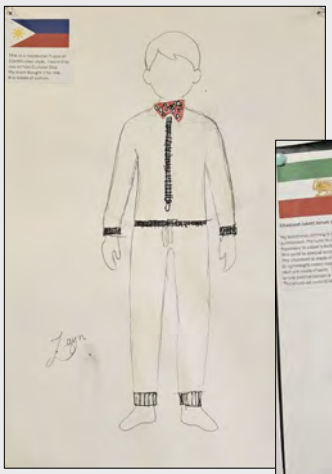




















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Enabling Communities through Tama-Ariki

Te Ātea sits within the wider Tama-Ariki kaupapa and serves as the front-facing hub for whānau and community.

Our shared vision is simple, yet profound:
That tamariki are safe, loved, and able to thrive within their own communities.

Through Te Ātea, we offer an alternative community-based pathway when concerns arise about the wellbeing and safety of tamariki, creating opportunities for early kōrero, connection, and support alongside whānau.

Please come and see our team to learn more, seek advice, or have a kōrero about the support and pathways available.

Hub Opening Hours

Monday - Friday
9.30am - 3.30pm
Closed public holidays

www.tamaariki.co.nz

Tama-Ariki
Children First, Always

Connect With Us

0508 AWHI4U

atea@tttp.co.nz

11 James Street,
Whangarei CBD, 0110

Te Ātea Hub

A place to kōrero
A place to share concerns
A place to find the right pathway forward

Te Ātea is a whānau support and connection hub grounded in community.

Te Ātea is open to:

- Whānau seeking support or guidance for tamariki wellbeing
- Community members wanting to share concerns safely
- Professionals working alongside whanau and tamariki.



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Marimba at WPS

On Wednesday 4 November, our Marimba students performed at the Quarry Gardens Sculpture Festival as part of their lunchtime series. Although the weather wasn't on our side, they performed beautifully and had a lot of fun in our final full performance of the year, with just one more short performance left at our End of Year Concert Picnic.

A huge congratulations on a great festival season to each of our ensemble students -- they have all worked so hard this year. Whaea Brittany is very proud of their efforts and determination. Well done!

This opportunity is available to any year five and six students who are interested in making the year long commitment to weekly lessons. We will have signups for next year's ensemble in early February 2027.



AKONGA TOA COURAGE
NGAKAU PONO CARE
AKONGA TŪTIKA RESPONSIBILITY
MANAAKITANGA RESPECT

Community Notices

If you would like to send us any similar notices to add to our newsletter: office@whangareiprimary.school.nz

Nominate Your Teacher!

Your child's teacher could win one of the Christmas gift baskets at Street Eats @ Semenoff. Students can fill out an entry form at the event. Street Eats will deliver the winning baskets to the schools.

There'll be around 100 street food and retail stalls, with Christmas presents and teacher gifts to browse while you're there.

Semenoff Stadium East Car Park, Whangārei

Sunday 29 November, 10am–4pm

Free entry

Facebook: @StreetEatsWhangarei



Community Notices

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Dragonfly Springs Wetland Sanctuary

We are open by appointment only at this stage

47 Raumati Crescent
Onerahi, Whangārei

www.dragonflysprings.co.nz
bugs@dragonflysprings.co.nz

Proudly Sponsored by PAK'nSAVE Whangārei

PAKnSAVE
OUR POLICY: NZ'S LOWEST FOOD PRICES
WHANGAREI



Dragonfly Springs Wetland Sanctuary is a community-focused environmental and educational sanctuary located in Onerahi, Whangārei. Established in 2007, the sanctuary has transformed a degraded wetland area into a thriving natural environment and valuable community asset.

Through many years of restoration work, supported largely by volunteers, community organisations and local businesses, Dragonfly Springs has developed into an established wetland ecosystem which incorporates extensive native planting, wildlife habitat, walking areas and practical examples of wetland restoration and stormwater management.

A FULLY FUNCTIONING NATURAL WETLAND

Wetlands are an important part of Northlands natural environment, providing wildlife habitat, filtering water, managing stormwater and contributing to the health of downstream waterways and eventually harbours and the ocean. Over 90% of wetlands have been lost in Northland: they are a vital means of removing carbon from the atmosphere.

Dragonfly Springs Wetland Sanctuary is now being administered by a Charitable Trust following the kind donation to the community by Jeremy Busck and Pam Winters, who had the vision to establish this environmental sanctuary.

Community Notices

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RELOVE RECYCLE

ADULTS & KIDS MARKET

THE BIG RELOVE

For the Whole Family.

Preloved finds for kids and grown-ups.

DISCOVER NEW TREASURES, SUPPORT LOCAL FAMILIES!

Sunday 22nd November 2026
10.AM-1.PM

Maunu Primary School
13 Austin Road, Maunu, Whangārei

Declutter and Earn!

Is your home filled with outgrown kids' clothing, toys, or grown-up fashion? Book a stall at our special market and turn your preloved items into extra cash.

Book your table today—spaces are limited!

Email:
rrkidsmarket@gmail.com

Shop & Discover

Discover preloved finds for kids and grown-ups, from clothing and toys to books, accessories and more - with bargains and special finds waiting to be uncovered.

Scan the QR Code to follow us on Facebook

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Mairtown Kindergarten

2027 ENROLMENT

8:30am–2:30pm
Open 48 Weeks of the year

Fees free for all children

100% QUALIFIED TEACHERS

WEEKLY

NGAHERE PROGRAMME

FIRE DAY



21 Princes Street Kensington
For more information contact

mairtown@nka.org.nz

09) 437 27 42

NKA
Northland Kindergarten Association

Community Notices

If you would like to send us any similar notices to add to our newsletter: office@whangareiprimary.school.nz

HELENSVILLE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Celebrating 150 YEARS in 2027!



Welcome to Our 150th Anniversary Newsletter

In 2027, Helensville Primary School will proudly celebrate 150 years of learning, friendship and connection within our community. This newsletter has been created to bring everyone along on the journey as we prepare to recognise this very special milestone.

Over the coming months, we hope to share stories and memories from past students, staff and whānau. We would love to hear about your adventures at Helensville Primary School, the friendships you made, the teachers you remember, the special events you enjoyed and the moments that have stayed with you. We are also keen to hear where life has taken you since leaving our school.

We invite our community to dig out old photographs, share treasured memories and help us celebrate the people and stories that have shaped our school over the past 150 years.

Our anniversary celebrations will take place on Friday evening, 4 June, and Saturday, 5 June 2027. This newsletter will keep you updated with plans and important information as these special events come together.
We are looking forward to reconnecting with past members of our school community and creating a celebration that honours our history while looking ahead to the future.

If you have a story, memory or photograph you would like to share, please email us at: 150years@helensville.school.nz

Thank you,
150th Celebration Committee

NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS:

- Save The Date : *4th and 5th June 2027*
- Spotlight On: *Georgia Logan*
- Draft Schedule Of Events
- Gallery

Helensville Primary School
Ngā Taonga o Te Awaroa



Save The Date!



Get Ready to Head Back to the '80s!

Kaipara Tavern is proudly presenting That '80s Show Live on Saturday 10 October at 7.30pm. Get ready for a fun-filled night of great music, dancing and a trip down memory lane!

Entry is $25 at the door, with proceeds going towards Helensville Primary School's 150-year celebration. Gather your friends, bring your best '80s energy and join us for a fantastic night while supporting this very special milestone for our school.

Tickets can be purchased at the Kaipara Tavern, Helesville Primary or on Eventfinda.





Spotlight On:

Georgia Logan

Since leaving Helensville Primary School, former student Georgia Logan has gone on to become a registered nurse and now works in the Emergency Department at Starship Children's Hospital.

Over the past five years, Georgia has worked in different areas across Starship and feels incredibly fortunate to be part of such an amazing team and to have found a career she truly loves. Alongside her nursing career, she has also enjoyed travelling the world and using her nursing skills to volunteer in Sierra Leone and Papua New Guinea, something she had dreamed of doing since primary school.

One of the most important lessons Georgia took from her time at Helensville Primary was the importance of kindness.

"The phrase I heard throughout school was, 'Treat others the way you would like to be treated.' It really resonates with me now, especially working in an Emergency Department. Kindness and treating others with respect can make such a difference, it really does go a long way."

Looking ahead, Georgia hopes to continue growing as a nurse while working and volunteering in different parts of the world. She would love to keep combining her passion for nursing and travel while supporting communities that may not have the same access to healthcare that we have here in New Zealand.

When asked what advice she would give her younger self, Georgia's message was simple:

"Enjoy the journey. Time goes so quickly, so take each day as it comes. Trust that you will get to where you need to be, and make sure you have plenty of fun along the way!"

We are incredibly proud to count Georgia among our former students. Her compassion, dedication and commitment to helping others, both here in New Zealand and around the world are truly inspiring. We are grateful to Georgia for sharing her journey with us and thank her for the meaningful difference she continues to make in the lives of children, families and communities.











Schedule Of Events:

150TH CELEBRATION DRAFT PROGRAMME

This programme is an early outline to give our community an idea of what to expect during our special 150th anniversary celebrations. Times are approximate at this stage and may change as planning continues. More information, activities and event details will be added as we get closer to the celebration.

FRIDAY EVENING • 4 JUNE 2027

5.30pm	Registration opens
6.00–7.00pm	Mix, Mingle and Reconnect with some History on Display
7.00pm onwards	Optional Kaipara Tavern Get-together

SATURDAY • 5 JUNE 2027

5.00am	Unveiling of Pou
7.00am	Breakfast
9.00am	Official Opening
9.30–11.30am	School Tours, Fun Workshops and Explore the School
11.30am–12.00pm	Touch Game and Tug of War
12.30–1.30pm	Planting of the Tree and Mauri Stone
1.30–2.30pm	Hangi Lunch
2.30pm	Official Closing
2.30pm onwards	Optional Kaipara Tavern Get-together

Community Notices

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creaTIFF and TEE
Kids Craft Workshops

SCHOOL HOLIDAY FUN!

Monday 21st December 9.30am - 2.30pm

MOSAIC CLOCKS





$60 Per Student or
$50 Per student
if sibling is attending too!

Friday 18th December 9.30am - 2.30pm

KID'S CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Create custom earrings, bracelets, necklaces, suncatchers, magnets, photo frames, & badges- perfect handmade Christmas presents for family!

Ages 8+
*Younger ages welcome with parent or caregiver



Fresh fruit provided for morning and afternoon tea

LIMITED to 15 spaces per Workshop

Te Kamo Memorial Hall
Boswell Street

FOR BOOKINGS, EMAIL: tiffanylittin@gmail.com

creaTIFF and TEE
Kids Craft Workshops

TIFF

Hey! I'm Tiff, a local Kauri mum of two girls (9 and 5) and a teacher aide at a local Intermediate, where I work with neurodiverse children. When I'm not at school or with my kids, I'm usually making something-whether it's earrings, beaded bracelets, suncatchers, Zentangle doodles, or 3D prints! I love bringing people together for a bit of creative fun, so come hang out and let's make something awesome.





TEE

Hi, I'm Tee! I work alongside Tiff as a teacher aide, bringing over 10 years of experience across ECE, school, and youth mentoring environments-including working with neurodiverse children. Before transitioning into education, I worked for many years as a graphic designer, and art remains a huge passion of mine. As a mum of two grown kids, I love helping young people tap into their own creativity. Tiff and I can't wait to create special projects with your tamariki that they'll treasure!"