

# EKETĀHUNA SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Preparing today's child for tomorrow's world - Whakakaha ngā tamariki mo apopo

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## COMING UP:

Friday 12 December: Last Celebration Assembly @ 11:15am

Friday 12 December: Term 4 Ends - **School finishes @ 12pm**

Monday 2nd February: Term 1 Starts - School Open for Students

Tuesday 3rd February: Mihi Whakatau @ 10:20am in the school hall

Friday 6th February: Waitangi Day - Public Holiday - **School Closed**

Wednesday 11th February: Year 7 & 8 Technology @ Tararua College



Tēnā koutou e te whānau,

As we wrap up our final newsletter for the year, we want to express our heartfelt thanks for your continued support, involvement, and enthusiasm. You help make Eketāhuna School the wonderful place it is, and we are truly grateful. Wishing you all a joyful, restful Christmas break and a happy holiday season. Keep an eye on our Facebook page over the holidays for any updates — and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in 2026! Ngā mihi nui — Koa Kirihimete 🌲 The Eketāhuna School Team xx

## A WONDERFUL EKETĀHUNA FUN DAY IN!!

The students had a wonderful time at school yesterday at the festive 'Fun Day In'. Students enjoyed rotating around a variety of activities from a 'Pool Party' swim, time on a water slide, crazy class technology challenges to complete, Christmas decoration making, along with movies & popcorn! A lovely way to end our year with such great students and staff - an absolutely, amazing FUN DAY IN!



## PRINCIPAL'S MORNING TEA

On Tuesday, ten students were rewarded with a special morning tea at *The Lazy Graze* to celebrate their fantastic decision-making and positive choices this term. These fantastic students were selected from last week's 'Green Card' draw, part of our school behaviour system that highlights positive actions. The students had a wonderful time, full of cheerful holiday chatter. Congratulations to Faith Kwocksun, Pounamu Roiri, Renee Dennison, Shelby Taiaroa, Aria Donahue, Litarah Taiaroa, Luke Rodriguez, Liam Giddens, Te Ariki Bacon, Brooklyn and Zayden! Well done everyone!

## LEADERS AT ST CUTHBERT'S COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Our House Team Leaders enjoyed their service at the community lunch last week. Each term they take turns to help with the serving, waiting and doing dishes. \$480 was raised for the Eketāhuna Health Centre. We had some lovely feedback from St Cuthberts, which made us very proud: "Melinda, thank you very much for bringing the school leaders down to help. They make the day so much easier for us all. They always have a smile on their face and are so polite and keen to help."



## FAREWELL TO OUR AMAZING YEAR 8 STUDENTS

We are incredibly proud of our amazing Year 8 students and wish them all the best as they head off to college next year. While we'll certainly miss their presence around the school, we know they're ready to take on exciting new challenges!!

Tararua College: Sammy, Rubylee Burton-Foley, Braxton Carrington, Harley Greco, Lana Hanson, Bella Ifill, Maclane King, Reuben Percival, Annabeth Read and Luke McNamara.

Wairarapa College: Kerrin Atkinson, Faith Kwocksun, Savannah Hammond and Pounamu Roiri Solway College: Lucy White. Makoura College: Maxwell Crudis Palmerston North Boys High School: Mack Duffy (Absent - Harley & Maclane)

# EKETĀHUNA SCHOOL PRIZEGIVING 2025

## Junior

Effort	Eketāhuna School Cup	1 - 3	Troy Spring
Sportsperson	Eketāhuna School Cup	1 - 3	Liam Giddens
Academic	Eketāhuna School Cup	1 - 3	Mackenzie Braddick

## Intermediate

Effort	Eketāhuna School Cup	4 - 6	Hugo Algie
Sportsperson	M & T Duffy Cup	4 - 6	Toby White
Academic	Eketāhuna School Cup	4 - 6	Maddie Giddens

## Senior

Effort	Webster Cup	7 & 8	Mikey Hammond
Sportsperson	Eketāhuna School Cup	7 & 8	Cody Bedford-Robinson
Academic	Bevan Reichenbach Cup	7 & 8	Faith Kwocksun & Savannah Hammond

## SPECIAL SENIOR AWARDS

Values	Eketāhuna School Cup	8	Lucy White
Arts	Eketāhuna School Cup	8	Lana Hanson
Technology	Woodhouse Family Cup	8	Mack Duffy
Taha Maori	Tangaroa Award	8	Pounamu Roiri
Sportsmanship	Mike Monaghan Cup	8	Lana Hanson
Attitude	Eketāhuna School Cup	8	Bella Ifill
Leadership	Eketāhuna School Cup	8	Mack Duffy
Contributions	MainFreight Award	8	Reuben Percival
Learning Progress	Duncan Trust Award	8	Maxwell Crudis

## CLASS AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE, EFFORT & EXAMPLE

**HUKANUI:** Lottie Lawrence and one other student  
**HĀMUA:** Georgia Capes and Georgia Wensley  
**RONGOMAI:** Ellie Christensen - McCaffery and Halo Crudis  
**NIREAHA:** Madison Rankin and Brax Duffy  
**PŪTARA:** Sammy and RubyLee Burton-Foley



## THANKS TO OUR 2025 HOUSE LEADERS & DEPUTIES

We had 8 wonderful leaders this year who were so positive and encouraging around the school - great role models for our students. Today they enjoyed a delicious, well deserved, morning tea shout down at the Lazy Graze Cafe!

Thanks to Lucy White, Mack Duffy, Bella Ifill, Chelsea Spring, Ariki Wihone, RubyLee Burton-Foley, Madison Rankin and Lana Hanson for being such awesome LEADERS!

**HUKANUI NEWS:** Happy Christmas to all the Hukanui children and their whānau. May it be filled with fun and laughter. Stay safe. Blessings from Kathryn Morgan and Marilyn Whiteley.



**NIREAHA NEWS:**

Merry Christmas to Nireaha and their whānau. May you find time to relax, enjoy the sunshine (fingers crossed) and have a fabulous summer! Arohanui, Miss T ❤️



**HĀMUA NEWS:**



What a fantastic year we've had together. Your children have worked so hard and brought so much energy and joy into our classroom. Thank you for your support throughout the year. Have a wonderful Christmas and a well-earned holiday! Amanda.

**PŪTARA NEWS:**



All my very best wishes to our amazing Pūtara students, and their whānau. Have a wonderful, safe summer holiday, and I wish you every success as you head off to college. I will miss you all tremendously!  
Love, Barb XXX

**RONGOMAI NEWS**

A huge thank you to the wonderful students of Rongomai for an awesome 2 terms. May you all have a restful festive season and enjoy a well-deserved holiday break! Best wishes to you all, Francois



**THE SCHOOL FINISH FOR 2025**



**We close on  
FRIDAY 12TH AT 12PM**

**ALL BUSES WILL BE RUNNING**

**COMING UP 2026:**

**MONDAY 2ND FEBRUARY - FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL**

**TUESDAY 3RD FEBRUARY - SCHOOL MIHI WHAKATAU**

**FRIDAY 6TH FEBRUARY - WAITANGI DAY -SCHOOL CLOSED**

## EKETĀHUNA CLASSES FOR 2026

As we look ahead to 2026, we're excited about the opportunities a new school year brings for our tamariki, our staff, and our kura. Tomorrow, students will be bringing home letters confirming their class placement for next year. These placements have been carefully considered by the teaching team, taking into account each learner's academic needs, social connections, wellbeing, and the best possible environment to support their success. We look forward to another fantastic year of learning, growth, and achievement for all of our students. Our school-wide class organisation for 2026 will be:

<b>HUKANUI</b> Marilyn Whiteley & Amanda Fowlds-Hartley	<b>HĀMUA</b> Barbara Whitburn	<b>RONGOMAI</b> Francois Crous	<b>NIREAHA</b> Kirstie Thomas	<b>PŪTARA</b> Spencer Pallister
Year 0 and Year 1	Year 2 and Year 3	Year 4 and Year 5	Year 6 and Year 7	Year 7 and Year 8

## END OF YEAR REPORTS ARE COMING HOME TOMORROW

Over the last few weeks I have spent time reading every students End of Year Report. I have felt a great sense of pride and pleasure as I see the amount of individual progress each student has made in a variety of areas across the curriculum and recall the many activities, opportunities and learning experiences that have been provided for them over this year. Please take time over the next few days to chat with your children about their reports and celebrate the great effort, and progress, made by them all. You'll be proud!



## CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY

It is great seeing everyone in school on Fridays, at the school assembly at 2:15pm, in the hall. Check the school calendar on our website online for dates. It's a great opportunity to share the successes children have had throughout the week. The last assembly for 2025 is tomorrow at 11:15am and is hosted by the House Team Leaders. We look forward to seeing you there!



### Term 4: Week 9 - Principal Award:

**Lucas Cremen**

**RESPONSIBLE & RESILIENT**

Awarded for School Values displayed at the Bush Interschool Athletics.

### Term 4: Week 9 - In Class Star Student:

**Hukanui:** Lukah Hoera-Bengston

**Hāmua:** Katie Plaisted

**Rongomai:** Neive Davis

**Nireaha:** Shelby Taiaroa

**Pūtara:** Kerrin Atkinson

### Term 4: Week 9 - Duffy Book - Values:

**Hukanui:** Brooklyn

**Hāmua:** Phoenix Paul

**Rongomai:** Olivia Capes

**Nireaha:** Jaylah Keedwell

**Pūtara:** RubyLee Burton-Foley

## A1 Standards - Pride in Our Work!

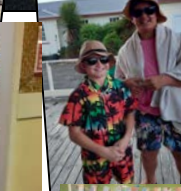
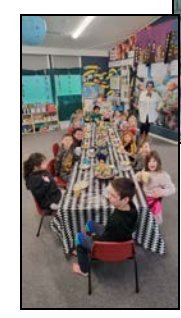
Our school A1 Standards Awards aim to encourage students to take pride in their work and develop great learning habits. This award recognises students who care for their books, follow presentation expectations, and stay organised—from neat handwriting and correct dating to using the right equipment and finishing each page before starting a new one. It's all about the basics, valuing our learning and striving for excellence! Congratulations to: Senorita Van der Wiel, Amelia Webber, Liam Aplin, Brodie Braddick and Sammy. Well done!



## House Leaders Award!

Our House Team Leaders Award is a new student-led initiative recognising children who demonstrate our school values during break times. Each week, our student leaders will be on the lookout for students showing respect, responsibility, resilience, and reflection in the playground. Recipients will be celebrated for their actions—a great way to build a supportive school community! Congratulations to: Maxwell Crudis, Mareana Roiri, Emmanuel McNamara and Kerrin Atkinson!







## **EKETĀHUNA BOARD CHAIR PRIZE GIVING SPEECH**



Hello and welcome everyone to our end of year prizegiving for 2024.

I'm Skye White, the School Board of Trustees chairperson.

Good evening everyone and welcome to our end of year prizegiving for 2025. It is so wonderful to see this hall filled with people who make our community so special and are here to celebrate our children. I want to thank you all for making the effort to come tonight, as a family with one bathroom and busy outdoor lives, I fully understand how hard it is to get out the door, suited and booted by 6pm.

Tonight is a chance to not only look back on the learning, growth and achievements of our children but to recognise the support, encouragement and partnership that you, our families provide every day. Our children shine because they are surrounded by people who believe in them, guide them and cheer them on.

This year our school and the children have continued to shine brightly in the community and at sporting and cultural events. Whether it is doing community service at the Waka Park, helping at the St Cuthbert's community lunch, attending the seven aside tournament, competing at interschool maths comp or playing touch rugby you can guarantee our kids are out there trying their best, that they are competitive, they try hard and they are resilient. A highlight for me and a good example of this was seeing our year 7 and 8 netball team recognised for their sportsmanship and dedication, while they came runners up in the actual competition they were awarded the team of the year out of all of the Wairarapa Primary Schools, it was a huge honor and well deserved.

Academically our children continue to do well, the data shows that for Reading, Writing and Maths, our children are well within the national expectations and we can be assured that educationally they are in good hands. I would like to thank Melinda, the teachers and support staff for all their amazing work and efforts with our children, i think the children feel really well connected and are well supported by our staff, thank you so much, we are so very lucky to have such wonderful people working at Eketahuna School and to have such strong enthusiastic leadership and commitment.

Thank you to the amazing volunteers and parents that come into school and help with events, sports, reading, taking transport and other programs. It is so extremely valued to have your help and assistance, and it makes it so much more possible to achieve great results.

I would like to thank my fellow trustees, Hemi, Matt, Ngaio, Melinda, Marilyn and Leona. The board's job is to provide a strategic direction and leadership to the school, they put many hours into ensuring our school is running smoothly and our children are getting the best education possible, they are all so dedicated and are invaluable to our school.

A massive thank you as always goes to the Home and School Committee, Kirby, Kim, Becs, Sally, Jacs, Melinda, and Miss T . The Home and School run several fundraising schemes, the golf tournament and calf scheme are the main two earners bring in between them about \$20,000. This small team achieved amazing results. Honestly I think if there is a zombie apocalypse these are the people who will not only survive but they will save the rest of us.

This year we sadly farewell Sally from the committee, Sally and Regan have been huge supporters of Eketahuna School for over 10 years. Sally has been a very active home and school member and was the finance officer for a long time, and they have grazed calves for the school and been to and supported countless golf tournaments, pet days and other home and school projects, so on behalf of the committee and our school thank you for all your time and efforts.

The home and School is such an asset for us, without them the kids wouldn't have the swimming lessons, chrome books, extra playground equipment, reduced costs for camp, and extra teaching resources, there are only four meetings and five fundraising projects a year. So please consider how you can help, or what you could offer. It doesn't need to be onerous, you don't need to come to all events or all meetings, but if we have more members the load is lighter on everyone.

Our year 8s, these guys are extra special to Melinda and I because when we both started at the school they were year 1, we have watched you grow over the past 8 years from gorgeous little 5 year olds to stunning 12 and 13 year olds and so today we celebrate you. We celebrate everything you have worked for and achieved during your years at primary school, each of you has grown in courage, curiosity and confidence. You have learned how to solve problems, ask questions, make mistakes, and to try again even when things felt difficult. These skills are far more important than any test score and are the foundation of a bright future awaiting you.

I know some of you will be itching to leave feeling like you have outgrown our little school, some of you will be nervous about what lies ahead, some of you are really excited and some probably aren't even listening, but you are all ready for this next chapter in your life.

One of my sisters told me recently that Pablo Picasso was alive at the same time as both Charles Darwin and Eniemin. This got me thinking about how much things have changed already in my lifetime and I can't even imagine how it will look 40/60 years from now. So as you, our children and our future step forward, know that you can and will achieve remarkable things, you are our greatest natural resource, wherever you go next, go with pride and know that Eketahuna school is always cheering you on every step of the way.

Merry Christmas!



