

EKETĀHUNA SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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

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COMING UP:

Friday 16 May: School Wheels Day

Friday 16 May: Celebration Assembly @ 2:15pm - Pūtara

Tuesday 20 May: Yr 8 to National Young Leaders Day in Palmerston Nth

Wednesday 21 May: Technology for Year 7 & 8 @ Pahiatua

Thursday 22 May: Year 4 - 8 Cross Country walk @ Golf Course

Friday 23 May: Celebration Assembly @ 2:15pm - Hukanui

Thursday 29 May: School Cross Country @ Eketahuna Golf Club

Friday 30 May: Tararua Staff Only Day - School Closed

Tēnā koutou e te whanau o te kura Ekētahuna,
It's been another fantastic week at Eketāhuna School! Our students have been busy engaging in a variety of activities, from cross country training & Kapa Haka practice to class learning. It's wonderful to see everyone so enthusiastic & involved in all that's happening across school. As always, we appreciate the support from our community & look forward to another great week ahead!



FAREWELL TO 'MS MAC'

At the end of this term, we will be saying farewell to Ms Lisa Patrick. Lisa joined Eketāhuna School in 2022 as a release teacher in Rongomai and quickly became a valued member of our team. In 2023, Lisa took on a full-time role and has since made a significant impact with her passion for teaching and dedication to our students. Lisa has recently won the role of a Team Leader at Gladstone School, and while we are sad to see her go, we are excited for the opportunities that lie ahead for her. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Lisa for her hard work, commitment, her role as Sports Coordinator, and the positive energy she has brought to Eketāhuna School. I know you will join us in wishing her all the very best for the future as she moves on to her new position.

LEADERSHIP IN CONSERVATION

This term, our House Team Leaders were invited to participate in the REAP 'Leaders in Conservation' programme at Pūkaha Mount Bruce. This is an exciting opportunity for our students to engage in hands-on conservation learning and leadership development in a real-world setting. The programme spans two days, with the Pūkaha team setting the students a challenge to complete back at school between sessions. Our students will work closely with Mr. Pallister on the school project challenge, applying their newly gained skills and knowledge to a practical conservation project. It's a fantastic chance for our tamariki to deepen their understanding of sustainability, leadership, and the natural world while gaining valuable skills that will serve them in the future. We look forward to the project... 😊



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. Tomorrow's assembly will be hosted by Year 8 students from Pūtara.

We look forward to seeing you all there!



Term 2: Week 2 - Principal Award:

Troy Spring

RESPONSIBLE & RESPECTFUL
During group work, kindly gave up his seat for another student and was happy to stand.

Term2: Week 2 - In Class Star Student:

Hukanui: Riley Andrews
Hāmua: Mackenzie Braddick
Rongomai: Marcel Hare
Nireaha: Brodie Braddick
Pūtara: Monet Crous

Term 2: Week 2 - Duffy Book for Values:

Hukanui: Takaiah Oliver
Hāmua: Liam Giddens
Rongomai: Ellie Christensen-McCaffery
Nireaha: Sean Bartolome
Pūtara: Maclane King

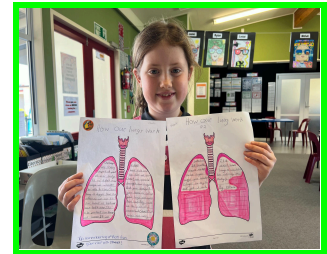
CLASS UPDATES

HUKANUI NEWS: Kia ora whanau

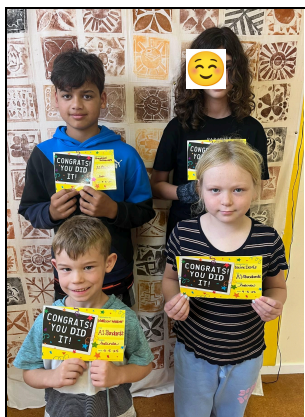
Another busy week in Hukanui. This week we have been continuing our work about bones, beginning to write information reports about our skeletons. It is great to see how much information the children have retained from our science work. In Maths we are beginning our measurement topic, using non standard units such as how many of your hands or feet are as long as the table? We have been busy training for the cross country, although some children find it hard to not sprint but to pace themselves so that they can run the whole distance. We are really focusing on using our school values in the classroom, especially Respect for others and for our toys and books. Next week we hope to go to the Eketahuna Town Library on Wednesday for the National Simultaneous Storytime. Any help with walking children to and from would be appreciated. Please let me know. Thanks, Marilyn.

HĀMUA NEWS: Kia ora whanau, We are having a wonderful time in Hāmua this week with the arrival of our science kit, Food For Thought. The kit contains cards with the instructions for experiments, and all the ingredients that we need. The children work in groups of three and four. It's very hands-on and there are lots of challenges like working together, following the written instructions, measuring carefully, observing the changes and communicating what they see. It certainly makes for engaged learners and I'm one of them! The children are learning about how food changes when we do different things to it. Our first experiment was adding vinegar to milk and seeing how the milk curdled and separated into curds and whey. Our next one was how water can change with the addition of jelly crystals. Our lessons link really well to our writing as the children are learning to write information reports. They are learning to use adjectives to describe the changes that they see. You can support this learning by talking about the different textures, smells and colours of the food they eat at home with you, and maybe doing some cooking together? Have fun. Whaea Amanda 😊

RONGOMAI NEWS: Kia ora whanau, This week we are learning to use algorithms and split method to solve subtraction problems. There are some great learning discussions being had in the process. For writing, last week we learned about our lungs. This week, we are learning how the heart functions in our bodies for our information reports. We are in full swing with practices for the kapa haka festival. It's beginning to sound very good! We are running more laps and increasing our stamina in our cross country practice. It's been great weather for it! Until next week, Nga mihi, Miss Mac 😊



A1 Standards – Taking 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: Sammy Streek, Emmanuel McNamara, Neive Davis, Matthew Webber and Senorita Van der Weil. Great stuff!

House Team 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: Kady Ifill & Luke Rodriguez



LATE STUDENTS

OUR SCHOOL DAY STARTS AT 9AM AND WE SEEM TO HAVE A NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO ARE LATE TO SCHOOL. IT IS VITAL THAT OUR STUDENTS ARE AT SCHOOL BEFORE THE START OF 9AM SO THEY HAVE TIME TO UNPACK, SORT THEIR EQUIPMENT AND PREPARE THEMSELVES FOR THE UPCOMING LEARNING IN CLASS. THANK YOU.



STUDENTS 'OFF' BUSES

A GENERAL REMINDER FOR PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS OF BUS STUDENTS TO PLEASE RING IN BEFORE 2:30PM TO LET THE OFFICE KNOW THEIR CHILDREN ARE TO BE TAKEN OFF THE AFTERNOON BUS LISTS. IT MAKES THE JOB SO MUCH EASIER AND SAFER. THANK YOU.



LOST PROPERTY

PLEASE MAKE SURE ALL CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT THAT COMES TO SCHOOL IS CLEARLY NAMED, TO HELP US CUT DOWN ON LOST PROPERTY! IF YOU ARE IN SCHOOL, PLEASE CHECK OUT THE BIN AS THERE IS A LOT OF CLOTHING AND SHOES THAT STUDENTS DON'T RECOGNISE AS THEIRS. THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP WITH THIS!



NIREAHA NEWS: Malo e lelei f ā mili!

What a great week we have had in Nireaha! We have had amazing learning conversations about area for mathematics and diving deeper into information reports; this week exploring a topic of the students choice which has led to some great research. Cross country training and fitness is still going strong and we are definitely seeing improvement in the students fitness and belief in themselves which will be very important on the day! It was awesome to get to see some of the Nireaha boys playing both football and rugby for their club teams on Saturday & see such incredible teamwork from both. Ariki, Chelsea and Madison spent Wednesday at P ū kaha for day one of a Leadership in Conservation workshop in collaboration with REAP which enables them to step even more into the leadership role as house/deputy leaders. Have a fabulous week, Miss T 😊 kthomas@eketahuna.school.nz

PUTARA NEWS:

Kia ora whānau,

I just wanted to say how proud I am of the Pūtara class – they've been absolutely amazing over the past couple of weeks, working with Mrs Morgan, Mr Crous, and Carolyn on a variety of great projects. I've been so impressed with how responsible and self-managing they've been – it's a real credit to them. I'll be back at school later next week and honestly can't wait to be back in class with everyone! A quick reminder that our Year 8s are off to National Young Leaders Day in Palmerston North on Tuesday with Mrs Morgan & Mr Crous, and then to Technology with Melinda on Wednesday – so it's shaping up to be a busy week ahead!

Looking forward to seeing all those smiling faces again very soon. Best wishes, Barb 😊 bwhitburn@eketahuna.school.nz



EKETĀHUNA SCHOOL WHEEL DAY

Friday 16th May

Children are invited to bring their scooter, bike, skateboard, roller skates or roller blades along to school. A wheel day map is used to ensure children use their 'wheels' in specified areas around the school. Please make sure that they bring along all appropriate safety gear.



PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN WATER BOTTLE DAILY

At school we have a filtered water bottle filler for students to access for fresh drinking water. Due to colds, bugs and germs we no longer have any shared drinking fountains operating so it is vital that all students come with their own water bottle. Please check that your child has their bottle, with their name on it, packed in their bag each day. Thank you for your support with this.



READY TO RUN!

We are reminding everyone that classes are training for the upcoming Cross Country each day by running measured laps of the school field to build up fitness and stamina.

Please make sure to come prepared with appropriate clothing & equipment.

RETURN YOUR LIBRARY BOOKS

We are reminding everyone that their class will be visiting our school library tomorrow with Spencer Pallister here to facilitate students' time and fun browsing!

Please make sure to bring any books you have issued with you in the morning!



CROSS COUNTRY WALK AROUND

Thursday 22nd May for Year 4 - 8

Next week our Year 4 through to Year 8 students will be walking to the Eketāhuna Golf course for a walk around and familiarise themselves with the cross country course. Please come prepared wearing sensible shoes and comfortable clothing.



HOME & SCHOOL PIE FUNDRAISER

Order forms & money to be in by

Monday 26th May

Pies will be delivered to school on Friday 13th June after 11am.



We would love any donations of strong paper bags. If you have any spare, please drop into the school office.



SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY

In preparation for our school cross country, students are training daily at school to improve their physical conditioning and build up stamina for the upcoming event.

School cross country will be at the Eketāhuna Golf Course on Thursday 29th May.

Eketāhuna School is hosting the 2025 Inter school Cross Country on Thursday 5th June at the Eketāhuna Golf Club.

We will need parent helpers on these days - if you are available please contact the school office and speak with Leona (or Lee on Fridays) or email our Sports Coordinator Lisa Patrick via lpatrik@eketahuna.school.nz.

JUNIOR TOUGH GUY & GAL CHALLENGE



This extreme 'off road' running event is in Palmerston North on Monday 26th, and Tuesday 27th, May.

It's for Year 3 to Year 8 students.

Parents are invited to go online and register their children at:

<https://eventpromotions.co.nz/junior-tough-guy-and-gal-challenge/#p>

SCHOOL CLOSURE THIS TERM

PLEASE NOTE THE DATES

This term we will be closing the school for instruction on:

****Friday 30th May for the Tararua Staff Only Day**

****Monday 2nd June for King's Birthday**

****Friday 20th June for Matariki Celebration**

SCHOOL CLOSED



We're excited to share that our student House Team Leaders have taken the lead in producing these Board profiles, as part of their exploration of different types of leadership within our school. They developed interview questions for each board member, and the pieces you'll see in the newsletter over the coming weeks are the result of their fantastic mahi.

INTRODUCING OUR BOARD MEMBER - MATT DAVIS

Can you tell us a little bit about yourself (e.g. your job, family, hobbies)?

I'm the Marketing Manager at Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre, where I get to see rare native species up close every day and contribute to their conservation. Outside of work, I enjoy watching sports (probably too much), fishing, and spending time outdoors. I've had three children attend Eketāhuna School, and one is still currently enrolled.

What were you like at school? Was learning easy or hard for you?

I enjoyed learning, though I spent most of my energy on sports. I performed fairly well in maths, which I found easier than some other subjects.

What is your role on the Board of Trustees, and what does it involve?

I am a Parent Representative on the Board of Trustees, it involves voicing parents' concerns, contributing to strategic decisions, and working with the school to ensure that everyone has the best learning experience.

Is being on the Board a paid role or voluntary?

There is a small payment for being a Board member.

Why did you decide to join the Board of Trustees?

I wanted to contribute to shaping the school's direction and do my bit for the community.

What do you enjoy most about being on the Board?

Being able to contribute to the community and work with people who are dedicated to our children's education.



