

# EKETĀHUNA SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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

Phone: 375 8191 or 022 368 1830 Email: office@eketahuna.school.nz Website www.eketahuna.school.nz

## COMING UP:

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**

Monday 2 June: Kings Birthday - Public Holiday - **School Closed**

Wednesday 4 June: Technology for Year 7 & 8 @ Pahiatua

Thursday 5 June: Interschool Cross Country @ Eketahuna Golf Club

Tēnā koutou e te whanau o te kura Ekētahuna,

As the cooler weather sets in and the gumboots and jackets make their return, it's been great to see our tamariki engaged in their learning and still making the most of their time at school. This week has also seen students out and about in the wider community, attending NYLD, technology classes, and visiting the town library. As always, they've been fantastic ambassadors for Eketāhuna School—living our values and making us proud wherever they go.

## YEAR 8 ATTEND NATIONAL YOUNG LEADERS DAY 2025

On Tuesday, our Year 8 students travelled to Palmerston North to attend *National Young Leaders Day (NYLD)*—a memorable day full of inspiration, connection, and powerful messages about leadership. The event brought together students from across the region to hear from a range of dynamic speakers who encouraged them to step up, support others, and lead with purpose. Among the highlights: Georgia Lines, award-winning singer-songwriter, spoke about authenticity, courage, and following your passion—even when the road is uncertain. Elisa Harley, 18-year-old CEO of Enivo Pots, shared her journey from selling succulents at age 12 to building a sustainable business tackling plastic waste. Jase Te Patu, a wellbeing leader and TED speaker, delivered a powerful message rooted in mātauranga Māori, encouraging our rangatahi to breathe, reflect, and lead with heart. Students also enjoyed an energetic session from Jari of Dance Curriculum, which got everyone moving and reinforced the power of creativity and expression. The day was not only fun but deeply thought-provoking, challenging our tamariki to set personal goals and think about how they can lead with empathy, integrity, and confidence—both at school and in their wider community. A huge thank you to Skye White, Sally Duffy, and Mr Crous, along with staff, for supporting and transporting the students to this valuable event. Ka rawe kids, you represented the school with pride!



## HUKANUI & HĀMUA TAKE PART IN NATIONAL SIMULTANEOUS STORYTIME

On Wednesday, our Hukanui and Hāmua classes enjoyed a walk into town to take part in the National Simultaneous Storytime event at the Eketāhuna Library. This annual celebration sees children across Aotearoa all reading the same picture book at the same time – a wonderful way to promote a love of reading and connect tamariki with stories in a fun, shared experience. After the story, the group made the most of the sunshine with lunch and a play at the town park before heading back to school. A big thanks to those parents who supported the students & Dani at the Library. It was great to see our students engaged and full of smiles throughout the day!

## 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 junior students from Hukanui. We look forward to seeing you all there!



### Term 2: Week 3 - Principal Award:

**Chelsea Spring & Madison Rankin**  
RESPONSIBLE  
Outstanding effort to ensure the Wheel Days obstacles are organised and packed up

### Term2: Week 3 - In Class Star Student:

**Hukanui:**  
**Hāmua:** Georgia Capes  
**Rongomai:** Shelby Taiaroa  
**Nireaha:** Cody Bedford-Robinson  
**Pūtara:** Savannah Hammond

### Term 2: Week 3 - Duffy Book for Values:

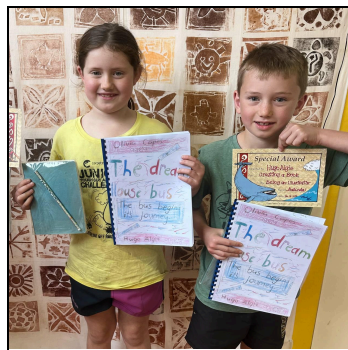
**Hukanui:** Lottie Lawrence  
**Hāmua:** Kaius Morgan  
**Rongomai:** Beau Wright  
**Nireaha:** Chelsea Spring  
**Pūtara:** Pounamu Roi

# CLASS UPDATES

**HUKAHU NEWS:** Kia ora whanau, We had a wonderful trip to the Eketahuna Library yesterday. The story "The Truck Cat" was great and held the children's attention. Then, because the sun was shining we had a lovely play and lunch at the park. The children had a blast and came back to school excited but tired. We have been working on writing information reports in class. It is amazing how facts hold the children's interest and how much they remember about topics. We are having an assembly tomorrow. Please come and support your children. It will be a treat! We are still working hard on using our values, especially respecting others and school property. Cross country next week...come and support your children! Thanks, Marilyn.

**HĀMUA NEWS:** Kia ora whanau, We thoroughly enjoyed our trip to the Eketāhuna library. The sun shone and the children were so excited to be walking to the library. They loved listening to The Truck Cat, making some very cool little cats and building with the wonderful lego. A big thank you to the Eketāhuna librarians for hosting us and setting up such engaging activities. After the library we had a picnic at the playground and there was a lovely sense of togetherness. In class the children have been learning how to write information reports. Our science kit "Food for Thought" has given us lots to write about and the children have really enjoyed completing the experiments. There's been lots of reflection, as they try to work out how the food changed because of what they did to it. We had milk curdling, jelly setting and corn exploding! Heaps of fun and lots of learning. Ngā mihi, Whaea Amanda. [afowldshartley@eketahuna.school.nz](mailto:afowldshartley@eketahuna.school.nz)

**RONGOMAI NEWS:** Kia ora whanau, In writing, we have been learning about our bones, joints and ligaments for our Information Reports. This will be our last week for subtraction strategies. We are currently creating matariki art to display within the classroom. Self portraits will be coming home to you on Friday. It was a pleasure to be a spectator and supporter on the rugby sideline last Saturday. The Eketahuna Under 9's had a convincing win against Red Star due to their awesome team work. Well done Soren, Heath, Maddie, James and Hugo. Until next week, Miss Mac 😊



## YOUNG WRITER & ILLUSTRATOR IN THE SPOTLIGHTS

A huge congratulations to Olivia Capes and Hugo Algie, who have officially become published authors and illustrators! The talented duo created an original seven chapter storybook titled *The Dream House Bus* - an imaginative tale that follows a magical bus on a series of adventurous journeys. Olivia took on the role of author, crafting the storyline and characters, while Hugo brought the book to life through his vibrant illustrations. This was a massive project, with the pair dedicating countless hours - including their own break times - to bring their vision to life. We're proud to share that a copy of *The Dream House Bus* has been donated to the school library, where other tamariki can now enjoy this incredible creation. Ka pai, Olivia and Hugo!

## 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: RubyLee Burton-Foley, Liam Aplin, Freddie Algie and Makai Morgan. Great stuff tamariki!



## 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: Indy Miller and Izzy Lawrence





**NIREAHA NEWS:** Kia orana whanau!

We have had a busy week of learning in Nireaha with the classroom humming with engaged learning conversations occurring. The students have been continuing with their information reports and have created some wonderful reports! The sushi and introduction to circuit work with a trap door wire that came back from technology were amazing. We have nearly finished our paper mache organs/bones which will create a great display within the classroom as we continue to learn about the human body & how it helps us to function, grow and live life. For maths, we have been working on multiplication mental strategies and have enjoyed exploring new ideas on how to use higher order thinking. Students have embraced cross country training and walked the Cross Country course today in preparation for next week's event. The stamina is continuing to grow which is great to see.

Ng ā mihi, Miss T 😊 [kthomas@eketahuna.school.nz](mailto:kthomas@eketahuna.school.nz)

**PŪTARA NEWS:** Kia ora whānau,

It's so great to be back in Pūtara this week! I'd like to extend a huge thank you to Mrs Morgan, Mr Crous, and Carolyn for taking such wonderful care of the class while I was away on sick leave. I'm incredibly proud of the resilience, responsibility, and respect our ākonga have shown throughout the school in my absence. This week, the class had a fabulous time attending the National Young Leaders event in Palmerston North. They've shared how inspiring and motivating the speakers were, and how exciting it was to be part of such a large event alongside so many other peers from the Tararua/Manawatu areas. Yesterday they attended technology at Tararua College and today, we walked the Cross Country course in preparation for next week's run through the beautiful Eketāhuna Golf Course. In class, we're continuing to develop our Information Reports, starting a new maths topic, and refining our Kapa Haka performance for the upcoming Bush Cultural Festival. Ngā mihi, Barbara. [bwhitburn@eketahuna.school.nz](mailto:bwhitburn@eketahuna.school.nz)

**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!

**SPARE CLOTHES TO SCHOOL PLEASE**

HEADING INTO WINTER & WET WEATHER IT IS REALLY GOOD TO HAVE SPARE CLOTHES, SUCH AS TRACK PANTS & TOPS ETC, HERE AT SCHOOL IF CHILDREN GET WET OR MUDDY.

IF YOU HAVE CLOTHES CHILDREN HAVE OUTGROWN PLEASE SEND THEM ALONG TO SCHOOL TO BE USED AS NEEDED. LEONA IN THE OFFICE WOULD REALLY APPRECIATE THEM! THANKS VERY MUCH.

**NOTIFYING THE OFFICE WHEN UNWELL**

A REMINDER THAT IF YOUR CHILD IS TOO UNWELL TO ATTEND SCHOOL YOU NEED TO NOTIFY THE OFFICE EACH DAY THEY ARE AT HOME TO AVOID THEM BEING RECORDED AS TRUANT. FURTHER, AFTER 3 DAYS AWAY FROM SCHOOL DUE TO POOR HEALTH WE WILL REQUIRE A DOCTOR'S MEDICAL CERTIFICATE FOR OUR SCHOOL ENROL SYSTEM. THANKS.

**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!

**EKETĀHUNA SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY**

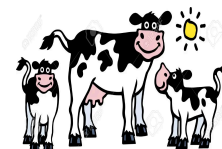
In preparation for our school cross country, students are training daily at school. School cross country will be at the Eketāhuna Golf Course on Thursday 29th May. Please see the information sheet for this event included with the newsletter. We will need parent helpers on this day - if you are available please contact the school office and speak with Leona (or Lee on Fridays).

**TARARUA INTERSCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY**

Eketāhuna School is hosting the 2025 Inter school Cross Country event on Thursday 5th June at the Eketāhuna Golf Club. It is a big day for the school community. We will need parent helpers on this day as marshals and on the BBQ - if you are available please contact the school office and speak with Leona (or Lee on Fridays).

**EKETĀHUNA HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION CALF SCHEME**

On behalf of the Home and School Association, and the school, a big thank you to all those in our community who are supporting the school through the calf scheme. Your generosity is most appreciated.



If you would like to join the scheme or would like more information please contact the office or Becs Giddens on 0277766507. Thanks!

# 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.

## **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/#pi>

## **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 - Ngaio Hanson**

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

I have three children who have all attended Eketahuna School, two are currently still attending here. I grew up on a farm in Nireaha and I am now a Shearing Contractor.

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

When I was at school, I enjoyed learning, but some things were a little tricky. I worked hard to understand new things, and I always tried my best. It wasn't always easy, but I learned that with patience and effort, I could always achieve what I set out to.

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

I am a parent representative on the school board. My role is to listen to parents' concerns and to share them with the school board. To help make decisions about policies, finances, and school activities. The role involves attending meetings, working with the board, and helping improve the school for everyone.

**Is being on the Board a paid role or voluntary?**

I do get paid a little to attend meetings but for me being on the Board is more of a voluntary role, I do it because I care about the school and the students, not for money. It's important to me to help out and support the school community.

**Why did you decide to join the Board of Trustees?**

I decided to join the Board because I want to help make our school the best it can be. I believe every student deserves a great education and I wanted to be part of the team that helps improve the school.

**What do you enjoy most about being on the Board?**

I enjoy being able to help make the school a better place for all the students. It's great to work with teachers and other parents to improve things like learning opportunities, activities, and school events. It feels good to know that I'm helping to make decisions that affect your school experience.





