

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 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
 Friday 6 June: School Wheel Day
 Friday 13th June: 'Wear Yellow for Harold' Day - Gold Coin Donation
 Friday 13th June: Celebration Assembly @ 2:15pm - Hāmua hosts
 Wednesday 18th June: Tararua Cultural Festival - Pahiatua

SCHOOL CLOSURE DATES - REMINDER

A reminder we will be closing the school for instruction tomorrow,
Friday 30th May for the Tararua Kahui Ako Staff Only Day
 and again on **Monday 2nd June** for King's Birthday

The Staff Only Day for all schools in the Tararua area is being held over a variety of days depending on each school. These days are given by the Ministry of Education to provide staff with additional time to refresh and deepen their knowledge and practice around the updated Math & English curriculums. Thank you for your ongoing support of our staff and our apologies for any inconvenience these closures may cause.



*Tēnā koutou e te whanau o te kura Ekētahuna,
 Another great week here at school, as we prepare for tomorrow's Cross Country event and farewell the amazing dental team!*

TUESDAY LEADERS IN CONSERVATION

Our House Team Leaders and Deputies took part in the Leaders in Conservation workshop at Te Wānanga Taiao o Manukura on Tuesday. The students showed impressive growth in confidence and knowledge over the two days. They learned about Pest Monitoring, tracked in the ngāhere, and planted native trees around the venue entrance—an ongoing reminder of their leadership. In their final session, they worked in groups to tackle real-world conservation challenges. The students were also set the challenge of "Te Taiao Restoration," a project to lead back at school. Later this year, they will return to present on their projects and share their leadership experiences. Ka pai tamariki!



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. There is NO assembly tomorrow. Our next is on Friday 6th June & will be hosted by Hāmua. We look forward to seeing you there!



Term 2: Week 4 - Principal Award:

Pūtara Students
 RESPONSIBLE & RESPECTFUL
 100% effort put into Weeks 1 - 4 with class behaviour & engagement while relievers were teaching in class

Term 2: Week 4 - In Class Star Student:

Hukanui: Matthew Oakley
Hāmua: Amelia Webber
Rongomai: Ryder Hammond
Nireaha: Toby White
Pūtara: Reuben Percival

Term 2: Week 4 - Duffy Book for Values:

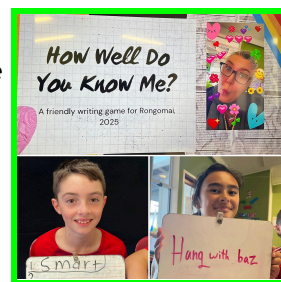
Hukanui: Brooklyn Aitken
Hāmua: Noel Lochhead
Rongomai: Olivia Capes
Nireaha: Hollie Giddens
Pūtara: Reuben Percival

CLASS UPDATES

HUKANUI NEWS: Kia ora whanau, We have been lucky to see the sun the last couple of days. Let's hope it stays this way for our School cross country on Thursday. The children are excited and looking forward to their run at the Eketahuna Golf Course. Please come and cheer them on. At school we have been practising our cultural items as the Juniors are going to join the Senior school at the Cultural festival on 18th June. This is a fantastic opportunity for the children and one that they are looking forward to. All children will need black clothing - shorts and a t-shirt would be great so please check in their clothes to see if you can find something that will work. Other than that, the dental bus has been at school and all children have been to see the lovely nurses there. We have been working on being resilient, giving that little extra and trying hard even when we are tired. As always, feel free to email me, any questions or thoughts mwhiteley@eketahuna.school.nz Thanks, Marilyn.

HĀMUA NEWS: As the School Cross Country draws closer, the students are getting excited and a little nervous about the event. We have been talking about how we might have a few butterflies in our tummies and how that is a good thing and we can use this energy to help us perform better. Let's hope the weather helps us perform better too! Another event in their minds is the upcoming Cultural Festival, in week 8. The students have been learning the words and actions and are sounding and looking pretty smooth. They will all need to wear plain black clothing on the day, so now would be a good time to go through their wardrobes and find, or perhaps borrow, something so they are set for the day and it doesn't become a mad rush to get it sorted on the week of the performance. Items with patterns on the outside may be able to be worn inside out. We don't want this to be an extra expense. We will have some accessories to go with the clothing so the black garments will not be the focus. A reminder that if you do need to discuss something please email me or telephone the school to request a meeting, or to have a chat on the phone. Ngā mihi, Amanda Fowlds-Hartley (Whaea Amanda) afowldshartley@eketahuna.school.nz

RONGOMAI NEWS: Kia ora whanau, We have been having a little fun with our writing this week with a 'How Well Do You Know Me?' quiz. Some of the questions included 'Describe Miss Mac in one word?' and 'My teacher really likes to...' There were some cute answers like '...she likes to be silly, have fun, travel, hang with Baz and take photos of him (my cat).' I think they know me well - Teehee! Cross country is our big focus this week. We are really looking forward to giving it 100% on our beautiful course at the golf club. Be sure your child brings all the essentials for the day. Also another reminder that we have our teacher only day on Friday. Have a great long weekend everyone. 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:

Luke McNamara, Renee Dennison, Litarah Taiaroa, Indy Miller & Saul Opie. 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: Annabelle Wensley, Olivia Capes & Takaiah Oliver



DRESS WARM AS WINTER IS COMING
WITH COLDER WEATHER ON THE WAY, AND CHILLY MORNINGS, PLEASE MAKE SURE STUDENTS ARE COMING TO SCHOOL IN APPROPRIATE CLOTHES AND SHOES TO KEEP THEM WARM. BEFORE SCHOOL TIME OUTSIDE CAN GET CHILLY AND WE WANT TO KEEP COLDS & FLUS AWAY! THANKS EVERYONE 😊



DEVICES AT SCHOOL

STUDENTS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO HAVE PHONES OR DEVICES OF ANY DESCRIPTION ON THEM AT SCHOOL. IF THEY DO NEED TO BRING ONE THEY ARE TO BE HANDED INTO THE OFFICE BEFORE SCHOOL & COLLECTED AT THE END OF THE DAY. NO PHONES SHOULD BE USED DURING BUS RIDES TO OR FROM SCHOOL EITHER. THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT.



NO SWEETS OR SUGARY DRINKS

A REMINDER THAT NO SWEETS OR SUGARY DRINKS ARE TO BE BROUGHT TO SCHOOL. OUR HEALTHY FOOD POLICY DISCOURAGES CONSUMPTION OF FOODS HIGH IN FAT, SUGAR AND SALT. IT ALSO ADVISES THAT HIGH ENERGY AND 'FIZZY DRINKS' ARE NOT TO BE CONSUMED AT SCHOOL. THANKS.



NIREAHA NEWS: This term is flying by and the Nireaha students are thriving! Our classroom has become a hive of focus and activity as we continue to work on information reports, create moving hands and other amazing learning that is occurring. I have been impressed with the students' attitude towards Cross Country training. Whether they are walking or running, they have still been moving every day and striving to do their best. The senior students are sounding amazing during our Kapa Haka practices and we are all looking forward to the Cultural Festival. Remember we have an extra long weekend due to tomorrow's Tararua Schools Teacher Only Day and Kings Birthday on Monday so enjoy the extra rest, so you are ready for week 6 🎉 Ngā mihi, Miss T 😊 kthomas@eketahuna.school.nz

PŪTARA NEWS: I am incredibly proud of the Pūtara students who are here today, ready (and keen) to run the Cross Country! I do understand that running is not everyone's 'thing', and I have been impressed that in preparation for this event, every student has been moving regularly - walking, jogging or running to the best of their ability. Well done! Please ensure you have read and returned the CAMP notices that came home this week. An invoice was attached, please contact Leona if you would like to set up a payment plan. Remember we have our Tararua School Teacher Only Day tomorrow, and we celebrate King's Birthday Monday. How COOL are we, receiving the Principal's Award at last week's assembly. We are currently planning how we will celebrate! Ngā mihi, Barb



EKETĀHUNA SCHOOL WHEEL DAY

Friday 6th June

Children are invited to bring their scooter, bike, skateboard, roller skates or roller blades along to school. A wheel day 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.



NO ASSEMBLY TOMORROW

Please note there is NO School Celebration Assembly tomorrow afternoon. Our next assembly will be held on Friday 6th June at 2:15pm in our school hall. The event will be hosted by our Year 2 and 3 class Hāmua.

We look forward to seeing you all there!



JUNIOR TOUGH GUY & GAL CHALLENGE



This extreme 'off road' running event is in Palmerston North on:
Monday 23rd & Tuesday 24th June

It's for Year 3 to Year 8.
Parents are invited to go online and register their children at :

eventpromotions.co.nz/junior-tough-guy-and-gal-challenge/#ejj

LET'S SUPPORT HAROLD ON FRIDAY 13th JUNE

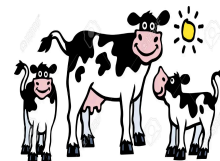
'Wear Yellow for Harold' is an annual fundraising event hosted by Life Education's regional trusts.

Schools are invited to hold a dress-up day on Friday June 13, 2025, where students wear yellow or a giraffe-themed outfit and donate a gold coin to Life Education Trust. This exciting event encourages a gold coin donation, raising essential funds to help empower tamariki with knowledge about resilience, respect, and identity through Life Education's programmes. We had Holly and Harold visit in Week 1 of this term and we learned a lot about how our bodies work and how we can keep them healthy!



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!



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.



YUMMY FRUIT STICKERS

Shop at your local New World, Pak'n Save and participating Four Square stores. Purchase Yummy apples, either bags with cut-out labels or individual apples with Yummy stickers. One cut-out label is worth 10 apple stickers.

Place the Yummy stickers on Sticker Collection Sheets and the cut-out labels on Cut-Out Label Collection Sheets. Your Yummy stickers will then be converted into a winning share of the \$200,000 sports prize pool from DG Sport. Please contact Leona to print off a form or go to <https://www.yummyfruit.co.nz/schools/> to print the form yourself.

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* Events * Notices * Newsletters
* Cancellations * Permission slips
* Parent Teacher Interviews
* Instant notifications * Absentees



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 - HEMI BRADDICK

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

I was born and raised locally. For work I shear, ultrasound scan sheep and run a sheep and beef farm. My wife Kimberly and I have three children, two currently at Eketāhuna School. In my free time I enjoy shearing competitions, hunting and spending time with my family.

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

I was a pretty good kid at school. I excelled at most subjects, so it made school quite enjoyable. The only thing I didn't like was handwriting which I was terrible at! Still a messy writer today!

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

I am a member of the Board of Trustees which means I help govern the school and make decisions to help it succeed. Part of this is overseeing the property and maintenance, making sure the budget is used wisely and supporting the principal to make sure you guys have the best opportunities to learn and succeed.

Is being on the Board a paid role or voluntary?

We are paid a small amount for our time given.

Why did you decide to join the Board of Trustees?

I joined because I wanted to keep the board a diverse group and be a part of setting a good learning environment for my children. I believe the more the community is involved in education the better.

What do you enjoy most about being on the Board?

I enjoy being able to support the school behind the scenes. It's good knowing I can make decisions that support students, staff and families.



