

# 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 15 August:** Please note - Assembly is postponed - not on.

**Tuesday 19 August:** Manawatu Sport Netball Sessions #3

**Wednesday 20 August:** Technology for Year 7 & 8 @ Pahiatua

**Thursday 21 August:** School Disco Yr 1 - 4 (Day) & Yr 5 - 8 (Evening)

**Friday 22 August:** Staff Only Day - School Closed for Instruction

**Wednesday 27 August:** NZEI PUM - School reorganisation of classes

**Friday 29 August:** School Daffodil Day - Wear yellow and bring coins

**Friday 29 August:** Celebration Assembly @ 2:15pm - Nireaha hosts

Tēnā koutou e te whānau o te kura o Ekētāhuna,

This week has been full of energy and engagement, with students throwing themselves into their learning – especially the exciting activities of Maths Week. From creative problem-solving to friendly House Team competitions, it's been fantastic to see the enthusiasm and teamwork shining through. At the same time, winter bugs have certainly made their presence felt, with both students and staff battling colds and flu. A big thank you to everyone for staying home if unwell – it really does help keep our school community healthy. You may notice the occasional reliever or class shuffle as we work to cover absences, but with our strong team spirit and supportive whānau, we'll get through the season together. 😊

### OUR YEAR 7 & 8 POLAR PLUNGE IS A CHILLY SUCCESS!

On Friday afternoon, our Year 7 & 8 students – along with a few courageous staff members – took part in the Polar Plunge fundraiser in support of their Term 4 camp. Originally scheduled for the morning, the event was delayed due to the weather but went ahead later in the day, with the water every bit as cold as expected. Students had been busy collecting sponsorships for their "frosty dip," with some adding an extra splash of fun by dressing in costumes. Staff joined in the challenge, much to the delight of the spectators, and the parents who came along to support and enjoyed plenty of entertainment from the poolside. We extend our sincere thanks to all the sponsors who contributed to this event. Your generosity enables us to have an awesome camp! So far we have raised over \$1,100 - Remember to bring your forms in from home for a final total!



### WE ARE CELEBRATING NATIONAL MATHS WEEK AT EKETĀHUNA KURA

This week we've been part of New Zealand Maths Week, a nationwide celebration designed to engage students in the fun, creativity, and challenge of mathematics. The national event, run annually, offers a huge range of activities, puzzles, and resources for schools across the country – all aimed at showing that maths is more than just numbers on a page. Here at Ekētāhuna School, we've embraced the challenge with a week full of activities to get everyone thinking, problem-solving, and having fun with maths. Students have been competing in Times Tables Leagues, tackling 'Hands On' Lunchtime Challenges, enjoying Breaktime Games like Giant Chess and Big Connect 4, and working together in the Daily House Team Maths Challenge. The week will end with a lively Whole School Maths Kahoot! which will see our students and staff go head-to-head in a test of quick thinking and teamwork. . . watch this space. . . results in the next newsletter!!



### EKETĀHUNA & DISTRICTS NETBALL - YEAR 7 & 8 TEAM INTO THE FINALS

The Year 7 & 8 Ekētāhuna & Districts Netball team won an incredible semi-final game against Lakeview School on Tuesday night, showing great skill, determination, and awesome teamwork. We are so proud of the way they played and supported each other on court. We're also excited to share that the team has been invited to take part in the Manawātū Netball Player Development Programme Tournament on Sunday 17th August. This is a morning of netball games, including a shooting challenge halfway through, and a chance for players to try different positions, meet new people, and play in a positive and supportive environment. Well done, team – what a season you're having!



## SCHOOL CLOSURE TERM 3 - PLEASE NOTE DATE

We will be closed for instruction on

**Friday 22nd August**, for Mid Term Break & Staff Only Day



# CLASS UPDATES

## HUKANUI NEWS: Kia ora whanau,

We have been very busy and productive in Hukanui - with Maths Week a real focus! We had Whaea Peta with us on Tuesday and Wednesday and she did some great alliteration work with the students. They read the story about Hetty Hacketts Farm and her chickens which had lots of examples. The students then created alliteration headbands such as Magic Makai, Brave Brooklyn, Special Senortia and Marvelous Matthew. Keep reading at home and asking lots of 'number questions'! Take care. M.



**HĀMUA NEWS:** Kia ora whanau. With it being **Maths Week** this week, we have had lots of opportunities to think about how much mathematics is part of our everyday lives. The tamariki learned what times tables are and how they show groups of the same number of objects, making the connection between skip counting and repeated addition. We practised making these groups and started learning our times tables. For some children this was new learning. Others had already been exploring time-tables at home and had already committed some to memory; which is fantastic! We also took part in some exciting House Maths Challenges that tested our thinking and teamwork. Some of the children also enjoyed playing games and activities, that involved maths, in their lunch break. In writing, we created dialogue for characters inspired by fairytales, bringing them to life with imagination and humour. It's been a week of fun, learning, and friendly competition!

Whaea Amanda [afowldshartley@eketahuna.school.nz](mailto:afowldshartley@eketahuna.school.nz)

**RONGOMAI NEWS:** Welcome to week 5, although almost done and dusted and the first half of the term is gone. Last week ended with a splash – literally! Our seniors took part in the lovely (and very chilly!) Polar Plunge, and their bravery inspired us to write a poem full of shivers and smiles. This week kept us busy as we celebrated Maths week with daily challenges and house competitions. We've also been diving into the world of shapes, spotting triangles, quadrilaterals, and more in our everyday surroundings. Our persuasive writing journey continues too, as we practise using strong words and clever reasons to win over our readers – just in case we ever need to convince someone to join us for a swim in winter! Enjoy a restful weekend;) Mr Francois Crous [fcrous@eketahuna.school.nz](mailto:fcrous@eketahuna.school.nz)



## STUDENTS 'OFF' BUSES

CAN WE ASK PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS OF ANY BUS STUDENTS WHO ARE BEING TAKEN OFF THE AFTERNOON BUSES TO PLEASE LET THE OFFICE KNOW BEFORE 2:30PM. LATE 'RING INS' ARE HARD TO MONITOR AND WE WANT TO AVOID ANY MIX UPS AT THE END OF THE SCHOOL DAY. PLEASE ENSURE YOU RING THROUGH TO THE OFFICE



## CELL PHONES:

STUDENTS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO HAVE PHONES OR DEVICES OF ANY DESCRIPTION ON THEM AT SCHOOL. THEY ARE NOT TO USE THEM ON THE SCHOOL BUSES EITHER. IF THEY DO NEED TO BRING ONE THEY ARE TO BE HANDED INTO THE OFFICE BEFORE SCHOOL. THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT WITH THIS ISSUE.



## 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. WE NEED TO ENTER THE REASON THEY ARE NOT ATTENDING SCHOOL ON OUR ENROL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM. THANK YOU.



## House Team Leaders Launch Conservation Project!

Our Eketāhuna School House Team Leaders have been busy this year taking part in the Pūkaha Mt Bruce Conservation Leadership Programme. As part of this learning, they have been working alongside Mr Pallister to plan and launch their very own project here at school. Their vision is to develop a bush trail with interactive activity stations in our school's native bush area – a space where students can explore, play, and connect with nature. Inspired by the beauty of our local environment, and research into other schools, the team is excited to create features such as a music station made from recycled items, weta bug & hotels, rustic seating spaces, rope swings and climbing challenges and a native bird feeding station.

To help bring this project to life, the team is seeking donations of items that could be repurposed for the trail which you will find on the flyer in the newsletter. If you can help, please contact the school office, who will pass your details on to Mr Pallister. He will be in touch to arrange a suitable time for drop-off or collection of items. Every contribution will help create a space for our tamariki to enjoy for years to come.

Ka pai, Leaders in Conservation – we can't wait to see your vision take shape.





**NIREAHA NEWS:** Kia Ora! What a fabulously freezing Polar Plunge we experienced last week! Thank you to whanau who attended to support our Year 7&8s. We've raised a fantastic amount so far so please continue to bring in your sponsorship forms and donations - either online or into the office! We are loving the challenges and new experiences that Maths Week has brought which has led to some incredible learning conversations and friendly debates as to how or what an answer may be. We have dived into angles this week and are realising how important they are within day to day life from kicking a rugby ball, to building fences. We have begun to write our speeches and the students have chosen some great topics! Ka rawe to our Year 7½ Netball team for their efforts in the semi-finals this week as they head to the finals next Tuesday - we are one very proud staffing team! Good luck and I look forward to seeing the great Eke spirit that you bring to the court! [kthomas@eketahuna.school.nz](mailto:kthomas@eketahuna.school.nz)

**PŪTARA NEWS:** Well done, team – we conquered the Polar Plunge! What an effort! Yes, it was *absolutely freezing* – but that was the whole point, wasn't it? A huge thank you to everyone who gathered sponsorship and chased up donations. We've raised a tremendous amount so far. If you haven't sent your sponsorship money in yet, please pay online, or drop it into the office as soon as you can. **Maths Week in full swing:** This week, students have been busy crunching numbers, tackling a variety of maths challenges with their peers, and competing in house activities. A select group will soon advance to the exciting "Take on the Teachers" challenge – we can't wait to see who makes it through! **Netball Grand Final bound:** After a nail-biting, hold-your-breath semi-final, our netball team has secured a place in the finals in Masterton next Tuesday. *The Finals* Good luck, girls – go out there, give it your all, and play your very best!



## OUTDOOR HOCKEY REGISTRATION FOR TERM 4

Please ensure all registration forms and are back by Monday 15th September. We will start to look at teams the following week and get our official school registration before the end of term. We have included a copy of the form with the emailed newsletter. If your child is planning to play you will need to get the permission slip signed and into the office as soon as possible. We are also looking for coaches so please make sure you circle that option if you feel you would be able to take on the role. Please note that training & guidance is available around the coaching role.



## NO TOYS, MONEY, OR VALUABLES AT SCHOOL

Students are encouraged NOT to bring money, toys or valuables to school. Students have been asked to leave these items at home and we are asking parents to please be vigilant about checking what their tamariki have in their bags when leaving home in the morning. If it is necessary to bring cash or something special, they should be left with Leona in the office for safekeeping. Please note the school will not be responsible for lost money, toys or valuables that are not left in the office.

## CONTACTING CLASSROOM TEACHERS

Pūtara = Barbara Whitburn: [bwhitburn@eketahuna.school.nz](mailto:bwhitburn@eketahuna.school.nz)  
 Nireaha = Kirstie Thomas: [kthomas@eketahuna.school.nz](mailto:kthomas@eketahuna.school.nz)  
 Rongomai = Francois Crous: [fcrous@eketahuna.school.nz](mailto:fcrous@eketahuna.school.nz)  
 Hāmua = Amanda Fowlds-Hartley: [afowldshartley@eketahuna.school.nz](mailto:afowldshartley@eketahuna.school.nz)  
 Hukanui = Marilyn Whiteley: [mwhiteley@eketahuna.school.nz](mailto:mwhiteley@eketahuna.school.nz)

## CONTACTING TEACHERS VIA THE OFFICE

Our Office Administrator, Leona Hayes, will also take a message for teachers and ensure they get the information, via the school phone on 06 375 8191, the school cell phone on 022 368 1830, and parents can also use the office email address at: [office@eketahuna.school.nz](mailto:office@eketahuna.school.nz)



Proudly supporting  
**Bush Ag Day**

For every tonne of Nutrinza's calf feed purchased before 31 December 2025, Nutrinza will donate \$30\* to the ag day.

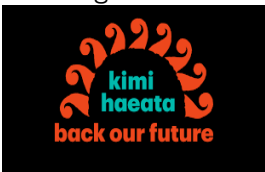
0508 768 723 | [www.nutrinza.com](http://www.nutrinza.com)

\*T&Cs apply



## NZEI PAID UNION MEETINGS

We wish to inform our school community that NZEI Te Riu Roa, the union representing teachers, will be holding Paid Union Meetings (PUMs) for members on Wednesday 27th August in the Tararua region. Two meetings are scheduled on the day: The first at 10:00am and the second at 1:30pm. Our teaching staff will be attending these meetings in a rotation, ensuring that there are always sufficient staff on site to supervise students safely. While school will remain open as usual, our daily programme may look a little different to allow staff to attend. Thank you for your understanding and support as our teachers participate in these important union meetings.



## Sausage Sizzle Fundraiser

### Order Forms Out Now!

### Friday 29th August



**Order forms for our House Team Leaders' Sausage Sizzle have gone home with students. Please fill these in and return them to the school office with payment by 9am, Thursday 28th August.**

**This will be a replacement for school lunches on the day, so don't miss out! Sausages are \$2 each, with tomato sauce available (or opt out on the form).**

**Extra donations are also welcome to support our Leaders' El Rancho Camp fundraiser.**

## NO ASSEMBLY TOMORROW

Please note, due to unforeseen circumstances, there is **NO School Celebration Assembly tomorrow afternoon.**

Our next assembly will be held on Friday 29th August at 2:15pm in our school hall. The event will be hosted by Nireaha. We look forward to seeing you all there!



## 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.

## UPCOMING

### Board Of Trustees Meeting

Notice of Board Meeting to be held on  
Wednesday 10th September 2025  
in the school staff room at 7pm.

If you have any items for the agenda please contact me with any relevant information by

Friday 5th September on  
063758059 or

[botchair@eketahuna.school.nz](mailto:botchair@eketahuna.school.nz).

Warmest regards, Skye White, BOT Chairperson



## EKETĀHUNA HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION MEETING

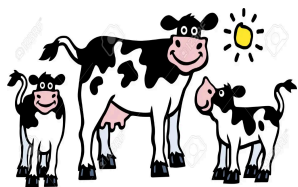
**Tuesday 16th September**  
**7pm @ Eketāhuna School**

*We look forward to seeing you all there 😊*



## 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 027 776 6507. Thanks!





## A message from our House Team Leaders & Deputies:

# Dear Eketāhuna community

**Kia ora, Eketāhuna Leaders in Conservation here.**

We are very excited with our idea for a trail with activity stations in our bush area at school. We've had a good look through the area we would like to develop today and are really excited about the possibilities. We are asking for donations of the following items to help us start creating this space.

- Old pots and pans and any other objects to create a music station.
- Wood pellets in good condition.
- Strong long rope for rope swing(s)
- Wood – for building raised activity stations. These would be concreted into the ground so would need to be something like a 1.8 metre fence post or 100 x10 post. Used ones in good condition would be great.
- Logs that can be cut up for rustic seating.
- Pinecones to create a native bird station – bird feeders.



Any contributions would be most welcome.

Thanks

**Leaders in Conservation team**





# STUDENT DISCO!

THEME:  
BEACH PARTY!

Thursday 21 August  
5:30 – 7:00pm



1 DRINK 1 SAUSAGE SIZZLE

**\$5**  
TICKET

DRESS UP IN YOUR  
BEST BEACH GEAR!  
(Think: Hawaiian shirts, sunnies,  
leis, beach hats (no togs, please!))

COME ALONG FOR MUSIC,  
DANCING AND SUMMER VIBES –  
EVEN IN WINTER!

Tickets available  
from the school office



YEAR 1-4 STUDENTS

# BEACH DISCO

DRINK &  
SWEETS



**\$3**  
ENTRY

THURSDAY  
21 AUGUST  
1:35PM

