

# 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 6 June: School Wheel Day

Friday 13 June: 'Wear Yellow for Harold' Day - Gold Coin Donation

Friday 13 June: Celebration Assembly @ 2:15pm - Hāmua hosts

Friday 13 June: St Cuthberts Lunch - House Team Service

Wednesday 18 June: Tararua Cultural Festival - Pahiatua

Thursday 19 June: Project Day @ Technology - Selected Yr 7 & 8 Team

Friday 20 June: Matariki Public Holiday - School Closed

Wednesday 25 June: Technology for Year 7 & 8 @ Pahiatua

## SCHOOL CLOSURE THIS TERM - PLEASE NOTE DATE

In Week 8 we will be closing the school for instruction on Friday 28th June for the 'Matariki Celebration'



Tēnā koutou e te whānau o te kura Ekētāhuna - For a short week it seems to have been incredibly busy! We have been celebrating Samoan Language Week, have had technology for Year 7 & 8, Kapa Haka practise, Interschool cross country today, along with Wheels Day tomorrow! Great to see our students are fully engaged in their learning & extra curricular activities!



### EKETĀHUNA SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY

Last Thursday, our annual School Cross Country took place at the Eketāhuna Golf Club, a fantastic venue and a stunning course! A huge thank you to Sally Duffy for her work setting up the age group runs. It was a wonderful day of determination and perseverance, with every student giving it their all and supporting one another through the ups, downs, and muddy patches. The event was a great reminder of the strength of our tamariki and the community spirit that underpins everything we do at Eketāhuna School. We'd also like to acknowledge the superb effort of our staff and the many volunteers who helped marshal, time, record placings, and ensure the smooth running of the event- we couldn't have done it without you! Today, we return to the Golf Club to host the Tararua Bush Interschool Cross Country event, welcoming schools from across the region. We look forward to sharing the highlights and results from that in next week's newsletter!



### SAMOAN LANGUAGE WEEK - VAIASO O LE GAGANA SĀMOA - TĀLOFA LAVAI!!

This week we're proud to celebrate Samoan Language Week, a special occasion that honours one of the largest Pacific cultures in Aotearoa. It's a wonderful opportunity for our tamariki to learn about the rich traditions, language, and proud heritage of Sāmoa. Throughout the week, students will be taking part in classroom activities exploring Samoan greetings, music, dance, art and customs, as well as a school-wide colouring competition due in by Monday 9th June.

## 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. Remember to wear YELLOW and bring a GOLD COIN DONATION!



# CLASS UPDATES

## HUKANUI NEWS: Talofa lava,

What a great effort the Hukanui children put in last week at cross country. Your determination to get to the end with a smile was to be commended. Congrats to Matthew and Brooklyn who will be running in the Bush Cross country. We wish you well. In class we have been learning how to write information reports. We are finding it hard to write a fact and that a fact doesn't start with I. We are starting to do a few activities to do with Samoan Language week. It is always good for the children to learn more about other places in the world. Please remember that we would like all children in black shorts and t shirts for the cultural festival performance. Please start sending these along in a named bag. Any questions or queries please do not hesitate to contact me. [mwhiteley@eketahuna.school.nz](mailto:mwhiteley@eketahuna.school.nz) Thanks, Marilyn.

## HĀMUA NEWS: Talofa lava,

It's been a shorter week, but still a productive one. The children have been learning about doubles and halves and measuring area. With the school Cross Country over we are moving on to dance for our exercise. We are looking forward to sharing some of our dance moves with you when we host assembly next week. The children love moving to the music and there is a real sense of joy and relaxation when we are dancing. So good for us all, particularly on rainy days. Thank you to those who have brought in the black clothes for us to view. It helps us plan for what we need to have for the Cultural festival, so please put a black top and pants in a named bag and send it to school by next week if possible. Tōfā soifua, Whaea Amanda

## RONGOMAI NEWS: Kia ora whanau,

Our first mention has to be about X-Country. The grit and determination of our tamariki was outstanding last week. Rongomai...you were simply amazing. In the rain, sun and mud, you gave it your all. Congratulations to our Under 11 Touch Rugby team for coming 1st equal in the Bush Primary Competition. It was a shame we couldn't play the final. However, not a shabby result at all. Well done Charlotte, Rylan, Shelby, Litarah & Lucas! In this short week, we are completing learning activities for Samoan Language week. In 'Listening with the Brain,' we are now working on 'missing items' to further strengthen and develop our listening and memory skills. Until next week, nga mihi, Miss Mac 😊



## NOTIFYING SCHOOL WHEN CHILDREN ARE ABSENT IS ESSENTIAL



Your child should go to school every day. But sometimes they might need to be away because they are too sick to attend, have an appointment or need to be at a tangi or funeral. If your child is going to be away from school you need to let us know as soon as possible. You will need to let us know that your child will be away, why and for how long.

Your child's safety and wellbeing is a priority for us. We monitor the daily attendance of students to:

- ensure their safety both in getting to school, & in accounting for them in an emergency
- identify students with achievement, engagement, or other issues
- meet our legal responsibilities.

The school expects parents and caregivers to:

- notify the school if their child is going to be absent by phone, text, or email by 9 am
- try to arrange appointments etc. outside school hours or in holidays

If your child doesn't turn up to school and we don't hear from you, we will get in touch with you to make sure your child/ren are safe. Thank you for your ongoing support with this.



## 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.

**NIREAHA NEWS:**

Tālofa lava! This week we have been celebrating Samoan Language Week and remember 'la malu lou sã. Folau i lagimã - a well-grounded self, is a successful self'. I am incredibly proud of the Nireaha students that participated in the school cross country last week. They not only showed perseverance, grit and determination during the run but the way they cheered for their peers and encouraged them along was awesome to hear and see. A special shout out to Toby, Hollie, Emmanuel, Brodie, Mikey, Cody Rhianna and Madison who have qualified to attend Bush Cross Country.

We have enjoyed exploring Samoan Myths and Legends and & following the temperatures within Eketāhuna for a fortnight as we learn about variables within statistics. Ngā mihi, Miss T 😊 [kthomas@eketahuna.school.nz](mailto:kthomas@eketahuna.school.nz)

**PUTARA NEWS:** Tālofa lava!

I'm so proud of our cross country runners from last week — they gave it everything they had! It was wonderful to see them supporting not only each other but also our younger students. A special shout-out to Bella, Lana, and Mack, who have qualified for the Bush Cross Country event this Thursday. We wish you all the very best!

Last Friday, while the students enjoyed their day off, our staff joined teachers and support staff from across Tararua for a shared professional development day. I attended valuable sessions on using AI in the classroom, developing handwriting, and analysing data from the nationwide PAT tests to better understand and support our learners' next steps. It was a rich and insightful day of learning! Today, I'm with the Year 7 and 8 students at Technology. There's a real buzz of activity — one group is busy measuring, drilling, and hammering as they build their catapults, while the second group is in the kitchen creating egg-based dishes. I can't wait to see (and possibly taste!) what these budding Masterchefs produce.



**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.

Note: This is the last Wheel Day for this term. Our next Wheel Day will be on Week 3 next term!

**SCHOOL POLICIES & PROCEDURES - TERM 2 REVIEW**

SchoolDocs manages our school's policies and procedures online, in a way that allows us to maintain, review, and update them regularly. This term we're asking the Board & parents to review:

- Planning and Preparing for Emergencies, Disasters, and Crises (board)
  - Communication During an Emergency, Disaster, or Crisis (board)
  - Emergency Closure (board)
  - Emergency Management
  - Disaster Management
  - Crisis Management



All feedback is great to get and this is your opportunity to have your say!

Please take the time to go online at [www.https://eketahuna.schooldocs.co.nz](http://www.https://eketahuna.schooldocs.co.nz) and take part in the review. (User name eketahuna and Password 4900) Thank you. 😊

**Board Of Trustees Meeting**

The next Eketāhuna School Board of Trustees Meeting will be held on **Wednesday 18th June at 6.30pm**

in the Eketahuna School staff room. Everyone is welcome to attend and if you have any items for the agenda please let me know by 5pm on Friday 13th June. I am contactable on [botchair@eketahuna.school.nz](mailto:botchair@eketahuna.school.nz)

or 3758059.

Warmest Regards - Skye White  
(Chairperson Board of Trustees)



**NO ASSEMBLY TOMORROW**

Please note there will be

**NO School Celebration Assembly tomorrow**

Our next assembly will be held on Friday 13th 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!



## 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 - Lisa Patrick: [lpatrick@eketahuna.school.nz](mailto:lpatrick@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 the office email address at: [office@eketahuna.school.nz](mailto:office@eketahuna.school.nz)



## KEEPING OUR SCHOOL GATES CLOSED DAILY

For the safety & security of our students, it is crucial to keep the school gate closed at all times during normal school days.

- Parents are requested to park in the car parks on Albert Street.
- Drop off, and pick up your children at the gates.
- Please enter via the pedestrian gate beside the letter box.
- Please avoid driving into the school grounds unless absolutely necessary.



## EKETĀHUNA SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY RESULTS FOR 2025

AGE GROUP	BOYS	GIRLS
5 Year Olds	1st: Matthew Oakly 2nd: Riley Andrews	1st: Brooklyn Aitken 2nd = I: Lottie Lawrence 3rd: Senorita Van der Wiel
6 Year Olds	1st: Noel Lochhead 2nd: Freddie Algie 3rd: Makai Morgan	1st: Izzy Lawrence 2nd: Indy Miller 3rd: Isla Doornbos Lamb
7 Year Olds	1st: Liam Giddens 2nd: Phoenix Paul 3rd: Luke Rodriguez	1st: Georgia Capes 2nd: Mackenzie Braddick 3rd: Georgia Wensley
8 Year Olds	1st: Soren Hanson 2nd: Hugo Algie 3rd: Aneurin Ngaruhe	1st: Ellie Christensen-McCaffery 2nd: Kady Ifill 3rd: Amelia Webber
9 Year Olds	1st: Lucas Cremen 2nd: James Rushbrook-Robinson 3rd: Rylan Carrington	1st: Olivia Capes 2nd: Halo Crudis 3rd: Neive Davis
10 Year Olds	1st: Toby White 2nd: Brodie Braddick 3rd: Beau Wright	1st: Hollie Giddens
11 Year Olds	1st: Emmanuel McNamara 2nd: Mikey Hammond 3rd: Brax Duffy	1st: Rhianna Jones 2nd: Madison Rankin 3rd: LLeucu Anderson
12+ Year Olds	1st: Mack Duffy 2nd: Cody Bedford-Robinson 3rd: Luke McNamara	1st: Lana Hanson 2nd: Bella Ifill 3rd: Lucy White

The Interschool Bush Cross Country was held at Eketāhuna Golf Club today. Our school hosted the event for the first time. As in previous years we are only able to enter 2 boys and girls from each year group. Students were selected according to school cross country results, skill displayed during training sessions during daily fitness and ability to run the very demanding course. See results in next week's newsletter.

