

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:

Thursday 21 August: School Disco Yr 5 - 8 @ 5:30pm

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

Wednesday 27 August: NZEI PUM - Reorganisation of Classes

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

Friday 29 August: School Sausage Sizzle Lunch - Leaders Fundraiser

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

Tuesday 2 September: Sport Manawatu Netball Sessions Year 1 - 8

Wednesday 3 September: Technology for Year 7 & 8 @ Pahiatua

Thursday 4 September: Bush Lions Speech Makers in Pahiatua

Friday 5 September: Celebration Assembly @ 2:15pm - Hāmua hosts

Tuesday 9 September: Sport Manawatu Netball Sessions Year 1 - 8

Wednesday 10 September: Board of Trustees Meeting @ 7pm

SCHOOL CLOSURE TERM 3 - TOMORROW

We will be closed for instruction on
Friday 22nd August for Staff Only Day



Tēnā koutou e te whanau o te kura Ekētāhuna, A short week, but packed full of great teaching & learning here at school! We hope you have a lovely, long weekend with family & friends, and look forward to seeing you back at school on Monday! 😊

EKETĀHUNA & DISTRICTS NETBALL

Our Year 7 & 8 Eketāhuna & Districts Netball team played an incredible final game on Tuesday night against an all-boys MIS side. They showed great skill, determination, and awesome teamwork. Despite a 10–15 result, we couldn't be prouder of the way they competed and supported each other on court. Parents and staff on the sideline were so impressed by their grit, positivity, and perseverance. On Sunday 17 August, the team also took part in the Netball Manawātū Player Development Programme Tournament—a morning full of games (with a mid-session shooting challenge), chances to try different positions, meet new people, and play in a positive, supportive environment. The feedback from our players was that they thoroughly enjoyed it. A huge thank you to Ngaio Hanson for transporting and supporting the team on Sunday, and to our whānau and staff for the loud, encouraging sideline on Tuesday. Well done, team. What a season you've had!!

STAFF ONLY DAY TOMORROW

A reminder that Friday 22 August will be a Staff Only Day (school closed for instruction at Eketāhuna School). This day is Ministry-authorised to support schools with the refreshed national curriculum. In 2025, primary schools (Years 0–8) are entitled to use Ministry-approved curriculum half-days for professional learning—particularly mathematics / pāngarau. We're combining two half-days into one day so our team can focus on implementing the updated Mathematics & Statistics programme and plan next steps for English across our classes. Thank you for your understanding and support as we do this work to strengthen teaching and learning. See you on Monday 25 August.



MATHS WEEK ENDS WITH CRAZY KAHOOT!

We kept the Maths Week buzz rolling into this week, with maths popping up everywhere in classrooms, staffroom, and lunch breaks. House Team challenges, quick-fire problem sessions, and "maths in the wild" moments made for lively, hands-on break times in the hall. We wrapped things up on Tuesday with a hard-fought Students vs Staff Maths Kahoot. It was fast, furious, and full of laughs—right down to the final question! Kahoot Results: 1st: Add-venturers (students), 2nd: Cool Calculators (staff) and 3rd: Divide & Conquer (students) A huge thank you to everyone

who organised the maths activities across school. It's been fantastic to see how much fun maths can be when it's all around us—here's to keeping that curiosity and confidence going in the weeks ahead!

CLASS UPDATES

HUKANUI NEWS: It's been another full and energetic week in the classroom. The children have been busy writing about animal care and sharing their thoughts on whether kids should help out with looking after animals. It's clear that many of them take great pride in their knowledge of farming and pet care, and their enthusiasm really shines through. In maths, the focus has remained on addition and subtraction. The Numicon resources, generously provided by the Home and School, have been a fantastic tool for helping students visualise these concepts. But the highlight of the week? The disco, without a doubt! There's been a real buzz around the costumes, treats, and dance moves – such a joy to see the excitement and energy of young learners. Wishing everyone a restful and refreshing mid-term break! Marilyn



HAMUA NEWS: Another busy week has passed. The children have been writing about looking after animals and giving their opinions about whether children should help out with the animals. It's clear many of the children take real pride in the work they are doing caring for animals and they have a lot of knowledge about farming and looking after pets. They've also had some fun writing about imaginary monster pets. In mathematics we have been continuing to explore multiplication and learning our times tables. The wonderful numicon that the Home and School paid for is really helpful for demonstrating what multiplication is about. But, the real buzz this week has been all about the disco. There's a lot of excitement about the costumes, the goodies and the moves. Oh what fun it is to be young and excited! Enjoy the mid-term break. I hope you get a little bit of rest and relaxation in. Amanda Fowlds-Hartley afowldshartley@eketahuna.school.nz

RONGOMAI NEWS: This week has been a busy and exciting one in the classroom. In Maths, we are continuing our geometry unit, focusing on transformations such as rotation, translation, and reflection. The students have enjoyed exploring how shapes can move and change while still keeping their size and form. In Literacy, we are wrapping up our persuasive writing and putting the finishing touches on our arguments. The focus shifts to speeches and the students will present their amazing writing in the form of a speech next week! We are also looking forward to our School Disco this evening. It's always a highlight of the term, and we hope to see many of our young ones there to enjoy the fun! A friendly reminder that tomorrow is a teacher only day. Rest well and keep warm and dry over the weekend. Francois Crous fcrous@welearn.school.nz

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE - IMPORTANT UPDATE FOR FAMILIES

Our goal is for every child to attend more than 90% of the time so they can make steady progress in their learning. This aligns with the Government's focus on lifting regular attendance. The Ministry of Education's Stepped Attendance Response (STAR) sets clear expectations for how schools and whānau work together to address absence and support students back to regular attendance. As part of the national approach, schools are expected to use STAR now, and government regulations will require every school board to have a published Attendance Management Plan in place from Term 1, 2026, with tiered responses at defined absence thresholds. We will continue aligning our practices to these requirements.

How this looks at our kura:

- We monitor attendance closely and will be in touch with some families where attendance has fallen below expected levels. STAR outlines a stepped response—from early reminders and offers of support through to formal notices if absences continue—so that no student is left to accumulate absences without action.
- You will receive communication for every absence; please always let us know the reason as soon as possible. This helps us support your child and keep records accurate.
- Where attendance remains very low and support is not taken up, schools may issue escalated notices and, in serious cases, consider referral for legal action under the Education and Training Act 2020.

How you can help:

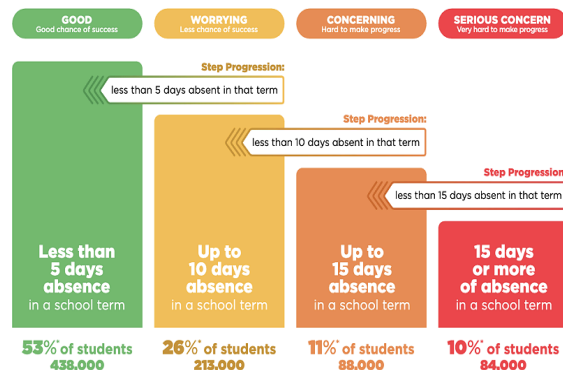
- Aim for 90%+ attendance and avoid non-essential appointments during class time.
- Contact the office first thing if your child is away (and tell us why).
- If getting to school is hard right now, please reach out—we can help put a plan in place.

Thank you for your support in making sure tamariki are at school, ready to learn, every day the school is open. Together we can keep attendance strong and learning on track.

Stepped Attendance Response - STAR

Responding to all absences

The Government's target is for **80% of students to attend regularly**, that is to attend school more than **90% of the time**.



NIREAHIA NEWS:

Students have been having a blast as we wrap up our geometry unit, hunting for angles all around the school and designing some awesome geometric t-shirts! They've been getting creative with some stunning jellyfish neurographic art, using mixed media to bring their ideas to life that are nearly ready to go on the classroom wall. Written speeches are coming along great, and students are practicing ready to shine next week when they present. School disco is tonight so make sure to grab your dancing shoes and beach attire (though leave the togs at home!) —it's going to be a great time! Enjoy the long weekend, take some time to rest! See you all on Monday. Miss T 😊

P.S. - I am extremely proud of our Year 7 and 8 netballers who played in the finals on Tuesday night. What heart, determination and grit they showed on the court! They should be as proud of themselves as we are of them.

PUTARA NEWS:

We are coming to the end of our geometry unit, where students have been exploring shapes, angles, and learning to use protractors and compasses with confidence. It's been great to see their skills, understanding and use of geometric language grow. Speech preparations are also well underway. Most students have written their speeches and are now focusing on learning them and practicing their delivery. Speeches will be presented in class on Tuesday and Wednesday next week, ahead of the school finals. Our sewing group had a very productive day at Tech, while the students who stayed at school enjoyed learning to code. Using block coding, they controlled the mini Spheros through mazes. They set themselves some impressive challenges and showed great focus as they guided their robots through the courses.

A reminder that the disco is tonight and tomorrow is a Staff Only Day. I look forward to seeing everyone back in class on Monday. Please keep practicing those speeches over the weekend!

**OUTDOOR HOCKEY REGISTRATION FOR TERM 4**

Please ensure all registration forms and subs are back by Monday 15th September.

We will start to look at teams the following week and get our official school registration in, before the end of term. 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 still 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.

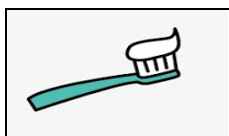
LEAVE YOUR CELL PHONE AT HOME & OFF SCHOOL BUSES

We kindly remind all parents, and students, that cell phones are not to be used at school. The government regulations require that: "Schools must ensure students do not use or access a phone while they are attending school, including during lunch time and breaks". Students are actively discouraged from bringing cellphones to school as they are not needed through the learning day. Any messages from parents or caregivers can be via the school office phone or email, or by texting to the school mobile. Students are also able to access the school phone to contact parents if required. If it is necessary that your child brings a cellphone to school then it **MUST** be left at the office during school hours. Students are not to have them during school time. This also extends to our school buses, where students who have them, should keep their phones turned off and in their school bags until home. Our school policy states that any found on a student during school time may be held overnight. Please discuss the use of cellphones with your children and support the school expectations. Thanks.

**ORAL HEALTH MESSAGE - BRUSHING**

BRUSH EVERY MORNING AND NIGHT WITH A SOFT TOOTHBRUSH AND FLUORIDE TOOTHPASTE FOR AT LEAST 2 MINUTES.

PARENTS SHOULD HELP WITH BRUSHING UNTIL ABOUT AGE 8, AS YOUNG CHILDREN STRUGGLE TO REACH THEIR MOLARS PROPERLY. WHEN IT COMES TO TOOTHPASTE, SPIT, DON'T RINSE. TO SAVE WATER, TURN THE TAP OFF WHEN BRUSHING. REPLACE YOUR SOFT BRISTLED TOOTHBRUSH EACH SCHOOL HOLIDAY. ADVICE FROM OUR DENTAL BUS TEAM. THANKS.

**LATE STUDENTS**

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

**SPRINGSHOW CUPS BACK**

IN PREPARATION FOR THE SPRING SHOW EARLY NEXT TERM WE ARE ASKING FOR THOSE CHILDREN WHO WON CUPS LAST YEAR TO PLEASE RETURN THEM TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THANKS TO THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY BROUGHT THEM INTO THE OFFICE. THANK YOU.



Sausage Sizzle Fundraiser - 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. Thanks for your support.

SCHOOL ASSEMBLY ON FRIDAY 29th AUGUST

We have our school Celebration Assembly next Friday, which will be hosted by students from Hukanui. It's a great opportunity to share the successes children have had throughout the week. We are looking forward to seeing you, in the hall, at 2:15pm where we will have Awards to give out and students to acknowledge.



We have booked in for Belinda Pratt to come back and take our school photos again this year.



SAVE THE DATE

Thursday
18th September

RETURN YOUR LIBRARY BOOKS

We are reminding everyone that their classes visit our school library each Friday with Mr Pallister who facilitates students' time in our great space! Please make sure to bring any books you have issued with you each Friday! Thank you very much.



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.

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 😊

