

Makuri Makes it Happen

18th December 2025 Term 4 Issue 21

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Makuri School Vision
With strong community support, Makuri
children will have the best possible opportunity
to grow as confident, self-directed learners.



'He iti te kopara rerere i te puhi o te kahikatea'
Though the Bellbird is small, it can soar to the crown of the kahikatea

School Values: Motivated, Adaptable, Kind, United, Resourceful, Involved

Principal's Blurb:

Kia ora koutou,

The year is coming to a close. We just had a great night at the end of year production last night. It was wonderful to see such a great number of families and community members there. The students put on an amazing performance that they can be really proud of.

Today we are tidying up in preparation for a summer break and new year. The last day will be held at the Makuri Domain tomorrow.

As we wind up this year, thoughts for the next year spring to mind. Stationery lists will go out to families. Makuri School is part of the donation scheme with the Ministry. This means that the school receives funding in exchange for not asking parents for donations. Camps are an exception. At Makuri school we ask parents to purchase stationery for their children as a voluntary expense. We have packs made up at The Bookshop in Pahiatua or parents can purchase elsewhere if preferred.

Survey on Homework. The middle to senior students and I have discussed the continuation of Homework in 2026. This year we trialed the homework programme. I feel that it was a good addition to the teaching and learning. The students have mixed views on the subject and have mentioned time constraints and clashes with other afterschool activities. I'd really appreciate the viewpoint of parents from years 3-8. A brief survey is on Skool Loop. Can you give your opinion on this? We'll make a decision considering this feedback.

School Pool:

The school pool won't be kept open over the summer period. We will reopen once the school year begins in February.

Kids' Corner:

Mr G's Class:

For the last newsletter the middle and Senior students were tasked with writing the final chapter of their "to be continued..." pieces of writing. Each student needed to choose a piece of Narrative writing with which they had not completed. They needed to recap from the previous piece of writing and then finish it.

The Red Head Boy

Part 1

The small, wry, red headed boy sluggishly strutted towards the sickbay. He was in primary school. That was bad because his parents weren't at home, they were at their jobs so they couldn't come and get him. He spewed a lot and the teacher had to clean up the spew. The Mum's job is cleaning houses. The Dad's job is doing rubbish.

Part 2

Do you remember the red headed boy? He was at school and he was sick, but his parents were not at home, so they couldn't come and get him. The teacher had to clean up. He stayed at school all night because the teacher forgot about him. His mum and dad forgot about him too. He ran out of school and walked slowly home. On the way home a random person walked up to him and said, "Do you want a lolly?"

The boy said, "Yes."

"Get in the car then."

"Okay."

"Argh, argh, argh, let me out of here!" He smashed the window and crawled out of the moving car. He was hurt and sick but he still jogged home. On the way home his mum walked up to him and said "Are you okay?"

"Yes."

"Let's go home then."

So they lived happily ever after.

By Taylor

The Boy 65

The small red headed boy who looked to be 10 years old strolled over to one of the tall green and red stalls. The boy dropped some silver coins and the fat stall owner bent down slowly to pick the shiny coins up. The sneaky, cheeky boy greedily picked up one jar of jam. The stall owner bent back up and gave the coins back to the little boy. The little boy turned away from the green and red stall and trotted off. The stall owner counted his jars of jam and yelled out "thief!" The boy started to run to a pile of rubbish. It looked like some sort of hut. Inside there were old blankets, pillows, rags, anything really. That was his home.

The Boy part 2

Last time on The Boy can you remember that red headed boy who strolled over to one of the stalls and stole a jar of jam. He ended up getting to the pile of rubbish and that was his home.

"You are finally back," yelled the little girl that had fiery red hair just like her brother and bright green eyes. She ran up to him to give him a big cuddle. "What have you been doing Jack?" said Holly.

"I have been getting you your jam. What about you?"

"I have been making clothes to sell," replied Holly.

"What clothes have you been making?" asked Jack.

"I have been making a dress, do you want to see?"

"Yeah," said Jack.

Holly pulled out a light pink long flowy dress . "It is beautiful," said Jack.

"Thank you. How much money do you think?" asked Holly.

"a lot," said Jack.

"That's good," said Holly. "When do you think we should sell it?"

"Next week," said Jack.

"Ok then that is a good time, "said Holly.

"You should get to bed now," said Jack.

"Ok," said Holly.

Holly walked over to some old pillows and a blanket she tossed herself on. Jack did the same. They said,

"Good night,"

"Love you,"

Then they went to sleep.

By Ivy

The Future P1



In a zoo in the city there was an ape named Mr. A. Mr. A was chosen because he was good looking. He wore a black leather jacket with a spiky leather belt and blue jeans. He was chosen to mate with really ugly girl Apes and he didn't want to. Mr. A tore a hole in his enclosure. He started to run away but then a person named Datist had a ray gun. He shot Mr. A with the ray gun. The ray gun is not meant to kill him, it only stunned him. Mr. A became enraged. He heard a guy talking to a Datist. The guy said,"You need to find the legendary sword that has healing powers." When Mr. A heard healing powers he took off and ran really fast. Datist could not keep up. Mr. A was just too fast for him. He ran into an alleyway. Datist was too scared so he waited outside. Then he heard a distant roar and he was...

TO BE CONTINUED!!!

The future P2

Last time in The Future. Mr. A tore a hole in his enclosure then a guy named Datist shot him with a ray gun. Then where we left it datist heard a distant roar.

Mr. A was stronger than ever. He found the sword and since it had healing powers he held the sword where he was shot by the ray gun. It healed him. Just then Mr. A pushed a button on the sword's blade and it turned into a broomstick. Mr. A flew into the bush and was never seen again. After that datist hopped back into his aircraft and flew away back to Mars where he belonged.

By the coolest Jed

Granny's Place

As Tom and Dom drove to granny's in the rusty old taxi. They remembered why they were going. Their parents were on a trip to America. While their parents were on the boat some guy in a suit pushed them off and they were never seen again.

When Tom and Dom arrived at Granny's place they were disgusted by how dirty and gross it looked. They looked around the dirty neighbourhood. They saw no one on the streets. Suddenly it started raining and they wanted to go home but the taxi sped off. Tom and Dom knocked on the door and a croaky, angry voice came "Who is that!?" Yelled granny. "Tom and Dom," replied Dom.

"Oh, you weirdos, come in,"

As soon as Tom and Dom walked in they saw rotting wood and lots of rats. They saw granny in the kitchen cooking something that smelled revolting. Granny was a small, wrinkly, old lady who Tom and Dom only saw twice. It was 4:30pm and it was already dark. Granny took them into a room. And surprisingly it was very nice with clean beds and clean walls, it was the cleanest part of the house.

"This is my room," said Granny.

Granny took Tom and Dom down to the basement, granny turned on the old light. It took 5 seconds to light up, it flickered and then it blew out.

"Guess you won't have any light," Granny laughed.

The two kids looked at the cold concrete floor, wondering how they would survive at Granny's. They looked at their moldy, bug infested mattresses and pillows. "No thank you," said Dom.

Suddenly the door got slammed and locked, Granny was gone and said "Dinner at 8". Dom checked his watch and it said 5:20.

Luckily there was a small window that gave light but it barely gave any because it was dark. The cold, dark room was nearly empty except for their mattresses and a table with 2 candles on it. Tom walked around the room searching for a lighter or some matches and suddenly he found a wet soggy box, he heard dripping right above him. It must be right under the kitchen. He opened the box and found an old torch, and a box of matches, Tom turned on the torch it flickered then turned on. It worked.

"Instead of wasting the battery, let's light the candles with the matches," insisted Dom. "Good idea," replied Tom.

Dom lit the candles and the room lit up. Tom and Dom were very bored and didn't know what to do. They both decided to explore the room. While exploring the basement, Tom noticed a loose tile sticking out from the wall. When he pulled it away, he found a narrow tunnel leading into darkness. It was a short tunnel but if they dug a bit more they would be able to escape. They could hear Granny coming down to the door, granny unlocked the door and Tom and Dom quickly put the tile back and sat on their mattress. Granny gave them dinner, it was green eggs and ham. She gave them knives and walked away. Tom and Dom didn't eat their food but went straight into the tunnel and started digging. Tom and Dom crawled into the narrow tunnel, their candles flickering behind them. The dirt was cold and crumbly, and every scrape of their knives against the soil sounded way too loud. Tom kept looking over his shoulder, afraid Granny might come in at any moment.

"We have to be quiet," Dom whispered.

"I am being quiet," Tom said back.

Suddenly they both felt a cold breeze, they dug and dug until they were outside. They ran out and hid behind a bush, they wondered what to do. Suddenly Granny picked them up and threw them into the basement again.

By George

The Wild Chase

There once was an ape who lived in a cage owned by a soldier called Johnny. Johnny had blond hair, blue eyes and a war wound in his right leg. Bronwyn who looks like a big buff ape escaped his cage. Johnny shot Bronwyn in the arm. Bronwyn was enraged for a week and

found a sword that had healing powers. So she took the sword to defeat the soldier. While the soldier was searching for the ape. The ape was at a pub called the ape pub. To be continued...

Part 2 The Wild Chase

In this chapter of The Wild Chase we return to the pub where Monk was trying to get away from Johnny the soldier. He was exhausted from running 10 k's. He was happy to see his mates. They had a chat and Monk had to leave. He started to run and he came to a battle ring. The soldier was already there. He was ready to fight. He was jumping up and down. Monk smashed him in the face with a powerful punch. Monk said, "You thought you were strong but you're not." Everyone heard as Monk left to get his gold medals. Monk watched Johnny go to hospital. "Ooh that's cold," said Monk, laughing away. He wanted to go back to the pub. On the way there he saw his mates. "Hey where are you going?" He said.

"We're going back home. We'll meet you there."

By Miles

Escape p2

In part one a Gorilla called Little Bob escaped from the black market. While he was running away he got shot by Big Larry. Find out what happens next to little Bob in part two.

As I grabbed the sword a strange sensation flooded through me. The wound in my left shoulder suddenly started to itch and tingle. I let go of the soft leather handle and felt my shoulder. There was no more blood or cut or anything left in the flesh. The bullet was nowhere to be found. I picked up the sword and looked closer. There were little gorillas carved along the side. Just above it was my family banana (like a family crest but it looks like a banana). I realised that this must be the ancient gorilla sword called the BBS(big blue sword not the bulletin board system). My great great

My plan is to work out how to use the sword to its full potential. I just need to work out how. I spend days traveling deep into the huge forest called the Taiga. At night I sleep under dense bushes and hollow trees and study the sword.

One night as I was studying the sharp weapon I heard voices in the dark and feet falling not exactly quietly in deep snow.

"I don't think he's in here and I'm cold." said a shivering voice.

"Aroouuu." a wolf howled at the full moon in the clear black sky.

"Yeah I'm getting out of here before I get my guts ripped out by a big old wolf or something."

"No gorilla would hide in here, he will be somewhere warmer and with less bears."

As I listened to their footprints fading into the distance I realized that I had been holding my breath. As I realised that I had to get as far away as possible, as fast as possible. Just then the sword started to glow again. I picked it up and before I realized what was happening I was flying through the air like a missile.

I screamed as I flew through the sky. I started to feel warmer and warmer. Soon a familiar stretch of land appeared on the horizon. Uganda. The sword started to slow down. It weaved through the trees to a small clearing. In the shade of the tree sat six large huts. While I was processing what had just happened an old looking gorilla walked out.

"Who are you and how did you get here?" asked the old gorilla in a shaky voice.

As I told the gorilla my story, more and more gorillas came out of the small huts. By the time I had finished my story all of the apes were looking at me like some sort of miracle.

- "The story was true," said a young gorilla.
- "What story?" I asked.

"The one where a silver back gorilla finds the sword a bring it back to us"
"You are now our leader."

By Zara

The Big Chase

In this chase there are two sides. On side one is John Ape, a hairy, black beast with strong arms, legs and also he has a six pack. On side two is Future man, a soldier from the future, who is the complete opposite of John Ape. Future man is a skinny, white robot disguised as a human and a legendary sword that's on John ape's side.

This is based in the future millions of years ahead. There was a zoo escape. John Ape bashed down a wall. He was angry or what I like to call enraged because someone was threatening to take over the world. They wrecked the bush where John called home. About 15 years ago all apes were transferred to a zoo by lots of robots. When John found out who or what it was he chased it down. Suddenly a man in a strange suit appeared "OH NO!" said the strange man sarcastically, an ape! It looked like a human but when John came closer and closer he heard beeping and saw red dots under his skin. John yelled "Robot" beating his chest. The robot soldier "future man" wounded John in the tummy "OWWWWW!" yelped John as he wept. The future man ran into the future city. It was filled with lots of high tech stuff like driverless cars, magnetic forces getting all the metal and hovercrafts. John raced into the city and looked for future man, he found him in a skyscraper!!

Part 2 coming soon! By Lucy

Awesome story

West coast Georgia 7:32pm 3056 B.C

It all started when Ape, a big chunky oompa loompa ape who smelt like dog poo mixed together with highly dangerous chemicals, was on his couch watching some footy. Suddenly his door swung wide open and in came a whole swat team.

"What did I do Mr swat guy?" Ape said, very confused.

"Don't act dumb with me, you know what you did." said the swat guy and all of a sudden Ape was knocked unconscious.

Ape woke up on his couch 2 hours later. He didn't know he was going to meet S.F.D.F. (Soldier from da future). They had met once in an intergalactic death battle of 2053. The soldier (who was really skinny!) had returned from the future to steal the enraged Ape's legendary sword. He saw Ape on his couch, his sword was in the kitchen with jam on it for some reason. The soldier quietly crept towards the sword, grabbed it and ran for his life but then his boot came off. He thought the Ape was going to hear it but Ape was sound asleep. Turns out Ape lives right next to the future soldier. 3 hours later Ape finally walked to the kitchen to get another piece of toast. But that's when he realised someone took his sword and saw the future soldier's boot on the floor. "That soldier is going to pay for this!" Thought Ape.

So while the swat team weren't looking Ape took his chance to grab the keys off the Swat leader. Ape ran and he did it so fast he nor the guard could see. "Ah, fresh air," said Ape. Now let's get my sword. Five minutes later he arrived at the apartment number knocking on the door pretending he was a pizza delivery guy. "Hi, pizza for room 32." Ape said.

The soldier opened the door and looked the Ape dead in the eye "We meet again". As soon as that happened the enraged Ape grabbed him by the throat and threw him out the window. The soldier was rushed to the hospital for some reason even though he is an enemy of the Ape.

Later he managed to get out of hospital and was forced to do 200 hours of community service. While the Ape was closely watching...

Part 2

Previously on the Awesome Story, Ape was seen patrolling the city. He saw the future soldier running from the police because he didn't do all of his community service. Ape caught him and made an animal arrest. The soldier was taken to prison escorted by Ape. Then the next day they drove to court.

"Order in the court."

"I'd like a cheeseburge<mark>r with</mark> a side of fries and a large shake." The whole crowd erupted with laughter and he was wondering. What's wrong?

Someone said this is a court not a McDonalds "HAHAHAHA" the crowd laughed again. But Ape was quite hungry. Anyway, the soldier was supposed to spend 15 years in prison. They all escorted the future soldier back to prison. The Ape was happy but old. He wanted a better life than being a superhero who fought crime in the city. So he did what he needed to do...and retired.

By William

Maccas Attacker Part 1

The small, fat, red headed boy ran as fast as he could to the new Macdonalds and had three delicious Big Macs. He had five chocolate coated ice creams. He said, "This is delicious!" with a mouth full of our food. His mum and dad said, "Slow down."

He saw the drinks. He quickly ran over there and had so many drinks that he felt like he was going to blow up. When his mum and dad said, "It's time to go."

He said, "But I don't want to go."

His dad said, "Don't talk back to your mother like that!"

He had his ear pulled in front of everyone in the MacDonalds. He crossly and slowly walked out of the shop. Outside of the shop he said, "I HATE YOU GUYS!" everybody started laughing.

Maccas Attacker Part 2

Remember the small fat boy who ran to the new Maccas and had his ear pulled and said I hate you guys. The next day he ran back and he met another fatty and said, "Oi this is my Maccas."

the other fatty said, "Let's eat for it."

so they had an eating competition. They had five Big Macs each. They started, red head was in

The red head said "why are we doing this? This is ridiculous. Let's ditch our parents and run away."

Five years later. They are all grown up and twice as fat. They have a gang called the eating beasts. They ride around in their Mr Bean cars and steal Big Macs from MacDonalds. To get in the gang you have to be over 500kg. They live in a tiny house made out of cardboard MacDonald boxes and empty bottles of Sprite for windows.

One day the police came and knocked on the door. He said "There's a tornado coming so you better be prepared." The two fattys looked at each other and said,

"We need more MacDonald boxes." So they hopped in their Mr Bean car and zoomed off down the road to MacDonalds.

They ate all the Happy Meals they could find. They ate all the Big Macs they could find. After that they weighed one tonne each. They could see the tornado coming and they had to hurry. They quickly went to the Warehouse and bought some super glue. They glued it all together to make it extra sturdy. They ran inside and begged God it would hold. The tornado hit and ripped up the whole entire house and their Bean car. Fatty 2 ran and jumped on their car. He flew away. After the tornado, Fatty 1 started walking down the road and saw a fat blob on the road. He started to run and he shouted out

"Fatty 2 how are ya mate?"

Fatty 2 said "A bit stonked mate I need a Sprite."

"There is no more Sprite left," said Fatty 1

Fatty 2 died there on the road.

By Fergus

RUFUS ESCAUSE THE ZOO Part 1

Long Long ago there was an Ape called Rufus. He had been in a zoo for his whole entire life. Rufus was fluffy, tough and toothless. One day he escaped the zoo because Rufus wanted to go to the jungle. But when Rufus escaped out he bowled over some zoo keepers. They tried to catch him but he was too fast. Rufus ran over a graveyard covered in ferns then he heard a noise and looked over his shoulder and saw a hand coming out of the ground and Rufus ran off and the soldier ran after him.

Part 2

Previously in my story Rufus escaped from the zoo. Rufus ran over a graveyard covered in ferns. Then he heard a noise and looked over his shoulder and saw a hand coming out over the ground. It was Nick from the future. Rufus ran off and Nick ran after him. Rufus hid in a tree but Nick had binoculars and Nick saw him jump up the tree. Nick shot him in the leg and Rufus fell out onto the grass. Nick ran up closer to shoot him again in the shoulder and Rufus screamed. Then he jumped into a taxi. Nick ran over to the sidewalk and shot the taxi driver straight in the middle of his heart. The man had a slug gun and shot Nick in the shoulder. Nick ran at the car and Rufus jumped onto Nick and flattened him. The man drove off and Rufus ran to the gun and picked it up. He grabbed the bullets. He counted them. He had 900 bullets. Rufus froze and took them all. Then he looked for a skyscraper and he found the sword. Then he looked out and saw his habitat. Then he went down and took the sword with him. A zoo keeper put a letter in a mail box and then he stopped and saw Rufus. Then Rufus jumped off the skyscraper then the man ran after him. Then Rufus shot the man in the leg. Then he fell and Rufus went on and on until he found the Jungle and lived happily ever after.

By Jimmy

Miss Paton's Class

Miss Paton's junior students enjoying a swim.



OTHER SCHOOL NOTICES

Calendar of Events

Please note that these dates may change from time to time.

2025

Term 4

December

Friday 19th - Last day of Term 4

2026

Term 1

February

Tuesday 3rd - 1st day of Term 1

Friday 6th - Waitangi Day (school closed)

Friday 13th - Technology

Wednesday 18th - Rural School's Junior Swimming

Wednesday 25th - Rural School's Senior Swimming

Friday 27th - Technology

March

Friday 6th - Bush Swimming TBC

Friday 13th - Technology

Thursday 13th - Minor Sports

Friday 20th - Minor Sports Postponement

Friday 27th - Technology

Duffy Books:

The Summer Reading Challenge is open to all students across Aotearoa!

Kia Ora Makuri

We all know that reading levels dip over summer so we're helping kids keep their reading up over the holidays and we'd love it if you could help spread the word!

The Summer Reading I Pānui Challenge: Read with Me, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education encourages students (going into Years 0-8 in 2026), to read with their whānau over the summer holidays. Students who complete and return the reading and pānui tracker form to their school at the end of the summer holidays will receive a badge and certificate. Additionally, Duffy students who submit their tracker to us, will go into weekly prize draws!

Research shows that children who read for 9 minutes a day will be exposed to over 1 million words a year. The Summer Reading Challenge is the perfect opportunity for students to keep up their literacy skills over the summer holidays and children who discover an enjoyment of reading and books now, become adults who inspire a love of reading to their whanau and wider community.

If anyone is interested in doing the Summer Reading Challenge please follow the link below. https://www.education.govt.nz/parents-and-caregivers/schools-year-0-13/parent-portal/summer-reading-panui-challenge-read-me

Yummy Stickers:

Don't forget to collect your yummy stickers and send them to school. If you need a new sheet let me know. As we don't get enough stickers to redeem them every year, we keep on collecting them until we do.

BOT

Makuri School Board Update - December Meeting

Tuesday 9 December 2025

The Board met to wrap up the year and plan ahead for 2026. Key highlights include:

Principal Appraisal

The Board confirmed Principal Murray Grimmer's appraisal and discussed professional development plans for 2026.

III Budget & Finance

A draft 2026 budget was reviewed, with final confirmation after the February Trail Ride fundraiser.

Student Reports

End-of-year school reports are currently being proofread and will be sent home shortly.

Attendance & School Policies

The updated Attendance Management Plan was approved, and all SchoolDocs are up to date.

Board Development & Communication

The Board agreed to undertake NZSTA training in 2026 and confirmed clear communication guidelines for board members.

Looking Ahead

Work planners, property planning, and grant opportunities will be further developed in the new year.

Thank you to our Board members and school community for another great year supporting Makuri School.





Community News:

ForMe Hairdressing:

HOURS OPEN

Wednesday 8.30-12.30 15.30-19.30 Thursday 8.30-12.30 15.30-19.30 Friday 8.30-12.30 15.30-19.30

Saturday 14.00-17.00

(Hours may vary)

HOURS CLOSED

Sunday Closed

Monday Closes

Tuesday Closed

MOBILE HAIRDRESSING available by pre-booking

Contact info-

Facebook messenger @ForMe Hairdressing

emmarobyn.reid@gmail.com

Text or call 0212142408

Cake Designer:

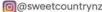




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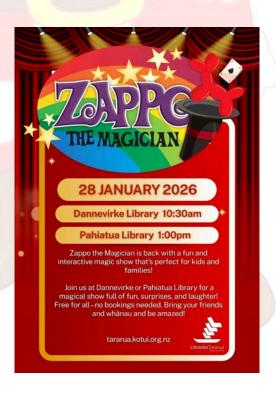
email / sweetcountrynz@gmail.com









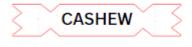






Wendy's Brainteaser:

Previous newsletter puzzle and answer.



Answer - Nutcracker, Well done Paul Cuttance

It takes a community to raise and educate a lifelong learner"



