

NEWSLETTER NO. 14 - 18th September 2025

Nau mai haere mai, Greetings | Tena Koutou | ¡Hola! | Hallo | Kumusta | Konichiwa | Groete | Namaste | Talofa Lava | Malo e Lelei | Ni sa bula | Fakalofa lahi atu | Kia Orana

Here we are at the end of Term 3, 2025. It has flown by, with students and staff engaged in a wide range of learning experiences, artistic opportunities, sports, and special events. We've enjoyed many moments of achievement and connection across our school community.

A special thanks to whānau for supporting field trips, sporting events, grandparents' day, and activities throughout the term - your involvement makes all the difference. The strength of our kura, our school, lies in the support of our community; the support that comes from all of you 😊 Ngā mihi nui kia koutou - huge gratitude, our heartfelt thanks!



*Happy and Safe
Holidays to Everyone!*

As we head into the break, the staff at Whakamārama School wishes everyone a safe and restful holiday, and look forward to an exciting Term 4 together.

Our Special Community

Large-scale power cuts impacted areas from Bethlehem to Waihi over the weekend of September 13 - 14. While most homes were reconnected during this time, a small number were still without power as of Tuesday, September 16 - and many of those were our Whakamārama families. Through it all, they remained patient and supportive, kind and generous, showing exactly what makes our Whakamārama community so special 😊

Grandparents' Day

We loved Grandparents' Day on Monday 15 September. A heartfelt thank you to all the wonderful grandparents, and whānau, who joined us. The day was filled with joy as we celebrated the special bonds between tamariki and their grandparents. A true highlight was seeing so many grandparents take the stage to share in the music items alongside their grandchildren, their mokopuna - some even more than once! Your presence made the occasion truly memorable.

Aroha is extended to everyone who helped make this occasion so special - kaiako, students, parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, our music tutor, kapa haka tutor, and whānau. This was our third year hosting Grandparents' Day, and with feedback from grandparents and staff reflection, we look forward to building an even stronger event for our fourth year in 2025.



“Ko te manawa ū, kia rere, kia tīna”

'Actively involved learners, empowered and thriving'

Parent/Family Information Evening - Mathematics and Statistics Curriculum Refresh

Thank you parents and whānau who joined us for our information evening on the Mathematics and Statistics Curriculum refresh on Tuesday 9 September. Your time, interest, and partnership was greatly appreciated as we continue to strengthen teaching and learning in this area. It was wonderful to share the changes, highlight our school's approach, and have valuable kōrero together.



Whakamārama School Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

The PTA has generously gifted our school \$1963 for new PE gear and sandpit equipment (think buckets, spades, and all things fun!) 😊 We have received some items and excitedly await the arrival of our other purchases. On top of this, the PTA has also funded a brand-new computer for our library – our learners are absolutely loving having this space back in action. We look forward to bringing you photos of our new gear in action next term!

The PTA's kaupapa is simple: to provide resources that make a real difference for our tamariki. The PTA is also a wonderful way to be part of our school community, with opportunities to get involved as much or as little as you like.



The ongoing success of our PTA depends on new members stepping forward as others move on when their children finish at our school. The ongoing success of our PTA depends on YOU! Your support - big or small – truly helps shape opportunities and experiences for every learner.

Show Day 2025

Show Day is set for Saturday 18th October 2025 – it will be here before we know it!

This year, our fundraising through the bucket raffles, silent cake auction, and donated items auction will support the signage of a new school mural. The mural, currently being designed, will capture our school values and vision, and the cost to complete the signage is \$4,450.

The mural will be a welcoming feature for everyone who visits our school. Our artist is drawing inspiration from the natural surroundings, weaving in soft tones from our roof and trees to ensure the design feels both harmonious and cohesive.



Not to scale 😊

Your support with this fundraising effort will make a real and long lasting difference! Watch out for those bargains across the upcoming weeks.

Teacher Only Day - School Closed

Our mathematics facilitator is once again excited to be working alongside our team and other cluster schools in our area for our third day of professional learning, focused on deepening our understanding of the New Zealand Curriculum – Mathematics and Statistics.



On Friday 19 September, our teachers will be engaged in learning that explores positive relationships with mathematics, with specific focus areas in geometry and algebra.

Thank you for your support of this teacher-only day. Thank you for making arrangements for this day of school closure. We look forward to taking our new learning into the classroom across Term 4 and beyond.

Primary School Teachers, Principals and Support Staff to Strike

Primary teachers, primary principals, support staff, kaiārahi i te reo, therapists and Ministry of Education field staff and support workers have all voted to take strike action together on 23 October.

Notification of the strike was received on 16 September, and the board will soon inform you as to whether the school will be opened or closed.

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Holidays during Term Time

Thank you to all parents and whānau who let the school know if your child will be away for a special holiday. These absences are recorded as *explained but unjustified*. Please note that the Ministry of Education automatically receives alerts when a student is absent for five or more days in a term.

Regular attendance makes a big difference to learning. Where possible, we encourage family trips to be planned during school holidays. If this is not possible, please email the principal at principal@whakamarama.school.nz with your holiday details to request approved leave.

Both our school and the Ministry aim for ākonga to attend regularly—more than 90% of the time. This means only one day away each fortnight. Every day counts, and even small amounts of absence or lateness quickly add up.

Avoid your child missing school - WHY?

- Educational disruption: regular attendance ensures continuous learning for your child. Missing school can cause your child to fall behind.
- Missed learning opportunities: your child misses out on important lessons and educational activities, which can lead to gaps in their knowledge and understanding.
- Disruption of routine: consistency is important for effective learning and behaviour.
- Impact on others: teachers spend extra time helping your child catch up, affecting the whole class.
- Assessments: missing school can lead to your child missing important goal setting assessments.

Out of Zone Ballot

Our school operates an enrolment scheme (school zone). This scheme helps to protect our school from overcrowding. If you live within the school zone, then your child / children are guaranteed a place at Whakamārama School. Out-of-zone applications for enrolment are considered through a ballot system, and are subject to available places in suitable classes.

The board invites applications from parents who wish to enrol their sons and daughters at Whakamārama School for Term 1 2026. Enrolment at the school is governed by an enrolment scheme, details of which are available from the school office.

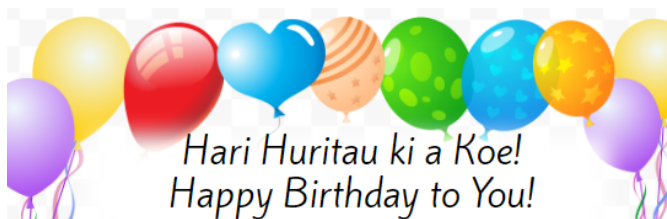
An out-of-home zone application is to be completed and returned to the school office. Applications can be emailed upon request. **The deadline for receipt of applications for out-of-home zone places is 6 October 2025.** The board has determined that 1 place is likely to be available for out-of-home zone students in Year 1.

If the number of out-of-zone applications exceeds the number of places available, applications will be sorted against Ministry priority criteria. If a ballot is required it will be held on 7 October 2025. Parents will be informed of the outcome of the ballot within three school days of the ballot being held.

To enrol or find out more information please contact the school 07 552 5204 or email our enrolment officer office@whakamarama.school.nz

Yummy Apple Stickers - End of this term is the deadline for Yummy Apple Stickers. The more stickers we have, the more FREE sports gear we get. More forms are available in the office if you need them. Keep on munching through those apples!

These children all have a September (Mahuru) birthday!!



6 Years Kieran
9 Years Benjamin B
10 Years Maxwell
13 Years Terence

CONGRATULATIONS to students who received an award at our whole school assembly on Thursday the 12th of September - Mīharo! Awesome!

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ROOM 3 RECOGNITION CERTIFICATES		
Week 9 12th September	Detroit	Superb leader. Detroit is focusing in on his learning. Detroit is an amazing learning buddy!
	Dior	Super! Dior is a learner who loves to make 'connections'. Super focus (Yay!) during reading, writing and maths ... Great attitude.
	Delfine	Wow! Super focus (yay) during learning sessions with the teacher. Delfine will ask great learning questions. Fab!
	Jack B	Super duper! Jack is a very responsible class member - He can be relied upon to be a great helper. Also...a super reader - Yay!
	Flynn H	Super duper! Flynn is a particularly focused learner at reading time. Flynn loves to share his experiences - Great!
	Kieran	Fabulous! Wonderful focus during learning sessions. Kieran likes to get involved - Great discussions.
ROOM 2 RECOGNITION CERTIFICATES		
Week 9 12th September	Isabella	For showing manawa-tina by being welcoming and supportive towards the new children in Room2
	Lyla	For persevering with her learning even when it's new and a bit tricky
	Zikai	For showing manawa-tina by being friendly and kind towards the new children in Room 2.
	Chloe	For showing manawa-roa - confidence in maths by being keen to give new learning a try
ROOM 4 RECOGNITION CERTIFICATES		
Week 9 12th September	Benjamin	For being a curious and confident learner. Your creative and unique ideas bring your learning to life. Tino pai rawa atu - excellent, Benjamin!
	Harry R	For approaching your learning with careful consideration. You think outside the box and ensure your work is of high quality. Mahi pai, Harry!
	Cohen	For displaying the value of Manawa-ū. Your positive and enthusiastic attitude towards your learning is a delight to have in the classroom. Keep working hard to achieve your goals. Ka pai tō mahi, Cohen!
ROOM 5 RECOGNITION CERTIFICATES		
Week 9 12th September	Courtney	Working hard in all areas, you are working so hard Courtney- well done!
	Johnny	For showing confidence in maths, trying hard and checking in till he understands new concepts.
	Armani	For spectacular art work, amazing attention to detail across all art forms.
ROOM 1 RECOGNITION CERTIFICATES		
Week 9 12th September	Ayda	Star Award presented to Ayda for demonstrating Manawa-nui. You are a respectful and helpful role model to others.
	Johnathan	Star Award presented to Johnathan for being a focused learner in maths and asking questions to deepen his understanding.
	Charley	Star Award presented to Charley for showing Manawa-roa. You have a positive attitude towards your learning, especially speech writing. Keep it up!
	Teama	Star award presented to Teama for being an encouraging team member and using great cooperative skills during sport.
PRINCIPAL'S AWARDS		
Week 9 12th September	James G-R	For being a respectful, kind and caring member of our school community. James, thank you for helping create a positive and supportive classroom and school environment.
	Thomas	Thomas, you are making thoughtful and positive choices across all areas of school life. It is great to see your confidence growing in your learning and your positive attitude shining in the playground. Ka pai, Thomas!
	Horijames	For showing personal growth this term and taking big steps forward in confidence, self-belief and communication skills - sharing ideas more openly with others. I look forward to seeing more of this Horijames :)
	Imogen	Imogen, I have enjoyed watching you approach your learning with such a positive attitude, always giving your very best effort. You are an enthusiastic and motivated learner. Please keep it up!
	Ben	You consistently demonstrate determination with your learning. You seek help when needed and show persistence through challenges. Your settled and focused approach to your learning has not gone unnoticed.
	Kurt	For demonstrating creativity and curiosity, always asking thoughtful questions and making connections in your learning. Kurt, you demonstrate determination and commitment in all that you do. Please continue!
	Otis	You really impressed me with your speech presentation. You selected a great topic that captured interest and drew your audience in. While some of the technical features for public speaking weren't there - your audience laughed, related to your topic and enjoyed listening. A strong effort

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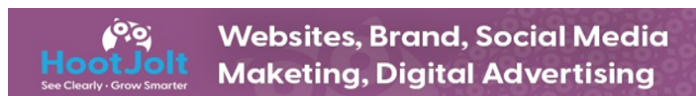
		to be proud of.
	Arjun	For consistently striving for excellence in your learning and taking pride in the progress you are making. Arjun, you demonstrate determination and commitment in all that you do - Keep it up!

SCHOOL NOTICEBOARD

Please keep yourself up-to-date with the school newsboard that comes out fortnightly in the newsletter or on the the school website

September / Mahuru	
Friday 19th	Teacher Only Day - Maths PLD
Friday 19th	Last Day of Term 3
October / Whiringa-ā-nuku	
Monday 6th	Start of Term 4
Monday 13th	PTA Meeting 7pm at the Whakamārama Community Centre
Saturday 18th	Show Day
Monday 20th	Bay Conservation Freshwater Field Trip Rooms 1 & 4
Tuesday 21st	Board Meeting 6pm
Thursday 23rd	Assembly 2pm - Come join us!!
Monday 27th	Labour Day - School Closed
November / Whiringa-ā-rangi	
Monday 3rd	PTA Meeting 7pm at the Whakamārama Community Centre
Wednesday 5th	Tall Poppies Athletics
Thursday 6th	Year 8 HPV (2nd dose)
Tuesday 11th	Year 5 & 6 North Cluster Athletics
Thursday 13th	Assembly 2pm - Come join us!!
Friday 14th	Teacher Only Day - Maths PLD
Tuesday 25th	Board Meeting 6pm
December / Hakihea	
Monday 1st	PTA Meeting 7pm at the Whakamārama Community Centre
Friday 5th	Tall Poppies Social Dance
Tuesday 9th	Junior Prizegiving 9.30am / Senior Prizegiving 12.30pm
Monday 15th	PTA Colour Run
Wednesday 17th	Last Day of Term 4

Thanks to the below businesses for sponsoring our school app Skool Loop:



If you would like to advertise on the Whakamārama School Skool Loop App please email Content@skoolloop.com

download the app: In Google Play & App Store search 'Skool Loop' & choose Whakamarama School once installed.

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COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Yoga Classes

Slow Flow Yoga Class
Whakamārama Hall
Tuesdays, 9am

Casual Class \$20 pp
 10x Class Pass \$170
 to be redeemed within 12 weeks



Leaves your body feeling longer, your mind more peaceful, and energy uplifted.

✉ thepeacefulpausecollective@gmail.com

Events & Workshops
 Planning a special day? I offer personalised yoga classes for events like hen's parties, weddings, birthdays and baby showers.



Alice Certified with Shiva Rea in Prana Vinyasa Flow.

September 2025 Holiday Programme

at The One and a Half Acre Wood
 80 Odey Rd, Whakamarama, Tauranga

9AM - 3PM
\$75 PER DAY PER CHILD LUNCH PROVIDED
AGE 5-13 YRS
Mon 22 Sep - Fri 26 Sep

- HORSE-TIME & RIDES
- PETTING ZOO
- GAME, CRAFTS & ACTIVITIES
- CAMPFIRE LUNCH
- FARM ANIMAL AND EEL FEEDING





FOR BOOKINGS CONTACT DIANNE:
 ☎ allaboutanimals80@gmail.com

WHAKAMARAMA HALL

Spacious sunny, multipurpose hall suitable for small to large events and gatherings. Commercially designed kitchen perfect for home and small business use.

HALL FOR HIRE
 Just \$20 per hours using discount code SCHOOL

For more information availability and to book scan the QR code or visit spacetoco.com
 Whakamarama Community Centre



tauranga vets

FREE Ag Day Pet Lamb, Calf or Kid Vaccination

Bring your Ag Day pet lamb, calf or kid into Tauranga, Te Puna, Katikati, Papamoa or Mount Maunganui Vets and we will vaccinate them for...




FREE

Offer includes...

- First Ultravac® 5 in 1 Vaccination *
- Free clinic health check *
- Tail and castrate ringing for lambs*
- A dispensed 2nd vaccination of Ultravac® 5 in 1 also free of charge

* Appointments must be made (Ag Day Booklets must be taken along to the appointment)
 Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer.

Please contact
 Tauranga Vets 578 4044 Te Puna Vets 552 4015 Katikati Vets 549 0215
 Papamoa Village Vets 572 2334 Mount Maunganui Vets 242 4422

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 100% OF PROFITS GO TO THE MENTAL HEALTH FOUNDATION

AOEC HOLIDAY PROGRAM

\$55 PER DAY

FOR BOYS & GIRLS 7-12 YEARS OLD

DATES

- Tuesday 23rd Sept
- Wednesday 24th Sept
- Tuesday 30th Sept
- Wednesday 1st Oct

FOREST DISCOVER
 ARCHERY
 ENVIRO - EDUCATION
 BUSH SKILLS
 CHALLENGE COURSE
 CAMP FIRE
 HEAPS OF FUN

8.50am - 3.30pm

BOOK BY EMAILING
TEAM@AOEC.ORG.NZ

16 Pikirangi Rd, Aongatete

Archery Club

Term 4
8 Weeks \$96
7 - 12 years old

Mondays 4 - 5.30pm
Starting on the 13th October



Register: team@aoec.org.nz
16 Pikirangi Rd, Aongatete

AONGATE
 OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTRE & LODGE

