

NEWSLETTER NO. 16 - 29th October 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

Welcome to Week 4! We hope you all enjoyed the long weekend. Labour Weekend is always a great reminder that summer is just around the corner ☀️😴 With the midpoint of the term approaching, it's wonderful to see our learners so settled, engaged, and proud of their achievements.

Show Day 2025

What a wonderful day it was for Whakamārama School's annual Show Day! The weather couldn't have been more perfect - sunshine, smiles, and the scent of spring filled the air. It was heartwarming to see so many people come together to celebrate, learn, laugh, and connect. Manawa-tīna - family, community, togetherness, unity, and friendship - could be felt in every corner of the school.



Show Day was all about our learners - their excitement as they prepared their exhibits, cared for their animals, prepared pet profiles and celebrated the day alongside their parents and whānau. Events like Show Day remind us of the strength of our community and the importance of coming together to celebrate what makes Whakamārama School special.

“Ko te manawa ū, kia rere, kia tīna”

'Actively involved learners, empowered and thriving'

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the day - students, parents, whānau, teachers, staff, board members, judges, and community. Your attendance, positivity, and generosity made this day one to remember.

- ★ A special thank you to Daniel Godfrey and Elina Arnese for teaming up to take on the tough task of deciding winners among an impressive lineup of lamb entries
- ★ A special thank you to Joanne Wiggett, who over the past seven years has judged our craft exhibits with such an intuitive and thoughtful eye.
- ★ A special thank you to Roger Harty for joining us once again for his seventh year of judging our small visitors.
- ★ A special thank you to Anton & Elize Terblanche from Bayleys for sponsorship and hands-on support on the BBQ
- ★ A special thank you to Lucy and Lillia, former students who helped judge our exhibits this year. Having been part of this event themselves, they understand the effort involved, the importance of the theme, and what to look for.

Acknowledgement of Achievement

<u>Lambs - Year 1-4</u> Leading: 1st Lacey & Flynn, 2nd Zac, 3rd Wolf Calling: 1st Lacey, 2nd Wolf & Flynn, 3rd Zac Rearing: 1st Flynn & Lacey, 2nd Wolf, 3rd Zac Champion of Champions: Lacey	<u>Lambs - Year 5-8</u> Leading: 1st Reon, Armani & Chloe, 2nd Gemma Calling: 1st Taylor, 2nd Armani, 3rd Gemma Rearing: 1st Armani, 2nd Gemma & Taylor, 3rd Chloe Champion of Champions: Armani
Small Animals 1st Isla B with Milo (rabbit) 1st Luke (with his visiting chickens)	

🌱 Garden to Table with Room 1 🌱

It was wonderful to see Room 1 back in the garden and kitchen for their first Garden to Table session for Term 4 on Thursday 16 October. When walking into the māra kai (food garden) after the school holidays, the plants were bursting with life. There was plenty to harvest!

Out in the garden, our Room 1 learners were busy grabbing wheelbarrows of fresh mulch and delivering these to the new huarākau (fruit trees) planted last term. The garden team also got stuck into the weeds that had crept up over the break. Did you notice how hard they had worked before Show Day? Everything looked amazing!

There was plenty to harvest, and our tamariki in the kitchen did an amazing job using the produce we've grown to make delicious pesto and spinach pasta, muffins, and kale chips. The pasta was a clear favourite, with students lining up for seconds - and even thirds! Some fabulous cross-curricular connections were made too, as they brushed up on multiplying fractions while doubling and tripling recipes.



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A huge thank you (and warm welcome) to Maria, who has taken over leadership of our garden team. This was her first Garden to Table session with our tamariki - and it filled her heart (and puku!) right up. "Such awesome mahi, such awesome kai, and such awesome tamariki".

It was also wonderful to have Darren and Stormie back supporting our tamariki. Room 1 learners are already looking forward to their next Garden to Table session!

If you enjoy gardening, spending time in the kitchen, and working alongside young people, we'd love to have you join us as a Garden to Table volunteer.



GAMMAN'S
GARDEN BARK & SOIL MIX

The school would like to thank Gamman's, Tauranga Landscaping Supplies, for kindly donating a trailer load of garden mix for our gardens - a great top up for the health of our māra kai! Ngā mihi nui ki a koe, e Gamman's, mō te tautoko i tā mātou māra kura 😊

Earthquakes STEAM Workshop

We were delighted to welcome STEAM Ed to our school on Friday 24 October for an exciting, hands-on learning experience. Through two, 1 ½ hour workshops, this free regional workshop gave our Year 5-8 learners the opportunity to build their problem-solving skills through the engineering design process while exploring real-world natural hazard challenges.

Our students took on the challenge of designing and testing earthquake-resilient structures. Combining science, technology, engineering, arts, and maths, they investigated the forces at work during an earthquake, then applied their learning to create an innovative model design. Our Year 5 - 8 learners thoroughly enjoyed these engaging and inspiring sessions that encouraged creativity and discovery.



Bay Conservation Alliance

What a busy and exciting day our Year 5–8 learners had at Puketoki Reserve with Bay Conservation Alliance on 20 October. Students learned about longfin and shortfin eels (tuna), carried out water quality testing, explored the bush, and examined the many insect species that live in the water. The day concluded with a refreshing bush walk. A huge thank you to the parents and whānau who joined us and supported our tamariki's learning.



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Colour Fun Run

The PTA are excited to announce that a School Colour Fun Run will be held on Monday 15th December 2025 at 2pm. This is a major fundraising event aimed at raising much-needed funds for a tunnel house, irrigation system and replacement vegetable garden beds. The school's garden has been an important part of school life since 2021, supporting the much-loved Garden to Table programme. Their goal is to raise \$15,000 to help this learning space thrive.



The parent letters and brochures that came home last Friday have all the details you need but in case they get lost, you are able to sign up for a Student Profile Page at www.schoolfundraising.co.nz. You'll be able to access online fundraising from here, and share your unique fundraising link on your child's profile page to any friends and family that may want to support your child's fundraising.

They key dates for the Colour Fun Run event are:

Fundraising period starts **27th October 2025** with the creation of online profiles

Fundraising competitions from **27th October- 21st November**

Student pick prizes online based on how much they fundraised **November 24th-28th**

🎉🎊 **School Colour Fun Run Monday 15th December 2pm** 🎉🎊

The PTA can't wait for all students to join in, get involved, and most importantly — have fun! 😊 It's going to be an afternoon packed with laughter and energy — no training required! 😊



HAVE YOU MARKED YOUR CALENDAR?

On **Thursday 11th December**, Rooms 1 and 5 will enjoy a full day of water-based fun at **Waimarino Adventure Park**. As this outing involves water activities, we will be looking for a team of parents and whānau to join us on the adventure. Please mark your calendar — we can't wait to share this experience with you!

Attendance

Thank you, parents and whānau, for continuing to make every day count when it comes to your child's attendance and learning. Your ongoing support ensures that students arrive ready to learn, connect, and thrive together. We have had a fantastic start to Term 4 for a majority of our learners but as you can see from our Term 3 summary, we need to keep the momentum going as we make the most of these final weeks of the school year!

Attendance Matters!



Every Student, Every School, Every Day

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The Ministry of Education has a national goal of 80% of students attending school 90% of the time by 2030. This means a student is unable to miss more than one week per term or four weeks in a year.

Term 3 Summary

How many students regularly attended school this term?

 Regular Attendance

47%

Compared to 60% in Term 3, 2024

 Irregular Absence 33%

Compared to 30% in Term 3, 2024

 Moderate Absence 9%

Compared to 4% in Term 3, 2024

 Chronic Absence 10%

Compared to 6% in Term 3, 2024

How many students were on time to class across term 3? 96% of students are arriving on-time regularly (i.e. over 90% of the time). Let's work on making this 100% 😊

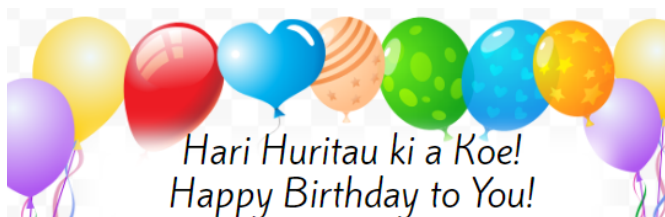
Reasons for absence

If your child is going to be absent or late for school for any reason, please contact the school before 8.50am to advise us of their absence. You can ring the office, use Skool Loop (Skool Loop App is available for iPhone & Android) or submit an online absenteeism form on our website. It is important that we have a reason for your child's absenteeism so that we are able to code the roll correctly. If your child is sick, we need more than 'My child is sick' as a response. It is very important to advise us of the reason for your child's absence otherwise their absence may be recorded as truant, and this information is now shared daily with the Ministry of Education. ***Please help us out with this, otherwise valuable office time is used to follow up on children that are not at school.***

Holidays during Term Time

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.

These children all have an October (Whiringa-ā-nuku) birthday!!



7 Years Noah B
8 Years Maddie
10 Years Max, Johnny, Sam, Micah, Ruby
11 Years Noah K

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

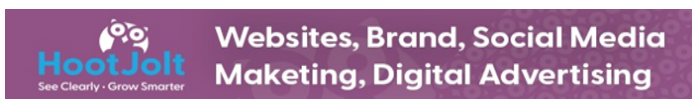
October / Whiringa-ā-nuku	
Thursday 30th	Assembly 2pm - Come join us!!
Thursday 30th	Garden to Table for Room 1 (covered shoes needed)
Friday 31st	Marimba Festival for participating students
November / Whiringa-ā-rangi	
Monday 3rd	PTA Meeting 7pm at the Whakamārama Community Centre
Thursday 6th	Year 8 HPV (2nd dose)
Monday 10th	Technology Year 7 & 8 - Covered shoes to be worn

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Tuesday 11th	Year 5 & 6 North Cluster Athletics
Friday 14th	Teacher Only Day - Maths PLD
Monday 17th	Technology Year 7 & 8 - Covered shoes to be worn
Thursday 20th	Technology Year 7 & 8 - Covered shoes to be worn
Thursday 20th	Assembly 2pm - Come join us!!
Tuesday 25th	Board Meeting 6pm
December / Hakihea	
Monday 1st	PTA Meeting 7pm at the Whakamārama Community Centre
Wednesday 3rd	Whakangahau @ Omokoroa No 1
Friday 5th	Tall Poppies Social Dance
Tuesday 9th	Junior Prizegiving 9.30am / Senior Prizegiving 12.30pm
Monday 15th	PTA Colour Fun Run
Wednesday 17th	Last Day of Term 4 (school closes at 1:00 pm)

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.

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
- GAMES, 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

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