

NEWSLETTER NO. 19 - 10th December 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 our final newsletter for 2025. It's hard to believe another school year has passed — a year in which we worked together to achieve our vision of "Actively involved learners, empowered and thriving." We are so proud of everything our learners have accomplished.

Here's to good friends, loving family, and plenty of laughter this Christmas season. Merry Christmas and a joyful New Year to all!



End of Year Prize Giving Assemblies

It was a pleasure to welcome everyone to our End-of-Year Prize Giving Assemblies on Tuesday, 9 December. These assemblies provided an opportunity not only to mark the conclusion of another successful school year but also to recognise and celebrate the remarkable achievements of our learners and our school community as a whole.

Throughout 2025, our ākongā - our students - have demonstrated resilience, curiosity, and a genuine passion for learning that continues to inspire us all. Each learner has made significant progress on their educational journey. Their hard work, determination, and commitment have not gone unnoticed. They have faced challenges with courage and have emerged stronger and more confident.

To our leavers, and to those continuing with us next year, we wish you every success in your journeys ahead. You are extraordinary young people who make our school proud, and we have every confidence you will continue to shine as you grow and take on new adventures.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our parents and whānau for your unwavering support. You make an incredible difference in so many ways - whether helping behind the scenes or stepping into the spotlight. Your involvement enriches our school community, creating countless opportunities and possibilities for our learners. Through your generosity, time, and commitment, our school continues to grow and flourish. You are deeply valued, greatly appreciated, and truly make a difference.



I would like to take a moment to recognise our exceptional staff - Brenda, Karen, Sarah, Theresa, Alison, Rebekah, Sharon, Colleen and Christine. At Whakamārama School, we are truly privileged to have a team of dedicated, caring, and hardworking professionals. Their consistent passion and commitment to our learners are inspiring and deeply valued. Together, they have built a nurturing environment where every student can flourish. As we look ahead, there is much to be excited about. Our focus remains steadfast on our shared purpose — our learners.

Some Years 1-4 Assembly Highlights



“Ko te manawa ū, kia rere, kia tīna”

'Actively involved learners, empowered and thriving'

Some Years 5-8 Assembly Highlights



Trophy Recipients 2025



Bay Conservation Alliance *Connor and Brayden*;
Outstanding Progress *Ollie*; Citizenship *Gemma*; The Arts *Armani*;
The Performing Arts *Harry*; Sportsmanship *Aaliyah*; Diligence *Ayda*;
Sports High Achiever *Teama and Taylor*; Service *James*;
Academic Excellence *Connor and Ollie*;

Year 8 Tall Poppies Social Dance

The Year 8 Tall Poppies Social Dance was held at Tauranga Girls College on Friday 5 December. Glamorously dressed, six of our Year 8 students arrived at the hall for an evening of social dance. The students spent some of this term learning traditional dances such as Palais Glide, Veleta, Waltz, Ballin' the Jack, Cha Cha Slide and a more contemporary dance to Footloose. The night helped build confidence and broke down social barriers for our Year 8 students.



The school wishes our Year 8 leavers Jamie, Connor, Ayda, Mason, Harry, Terence, Shalomey, Callaway and Gemma all the very best as they embark on a new learning journey beyond Whakamārama School. They are a remarkable group of young people standing on the brink of something new - ready to step out, spread their wings, and set off on their life's quest into the great unknown. Each of them has worked so very hard, and we have no doubt that they will continue to do so. May they always remember our school on the hill, dream big and pursue those dreams with determination. Year 8s, as you set out into the great unknown, go with confidence, go with heart, and go knowing you are more than ready to write your next amazing chapter.

🌱 Garden to Table with Room 1 🌱

Room 1 had their final Garden to Table session for spring on Thursday, 27 November. Out in the garden, our learners were busy weeding, mulching, planting kānga (corn), staking raspberries and sunflowers, and making crop ID signs so everyone knows what's growing, how to harvest it, and when it's ready to eat. A team also helped build new tree boxes for our orchard trees.

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In the kitchen, the Room 1 tamariki whipped up crispy kale chips, sweet and tangy beetroot salad in lettuce cups, lemon polenta biscuits, and pesto-filled flatbreads — everything was *super* delicious! 😊

Room 1 has been incredibly productive this term. It's been a busy spring, and the garden will be bursting with kai over the coming months.

A huge thank you to garden expert Maria, kitchen expert Alison, and *Garden to Table* volunteers Phoebe and Darren, who empowered our learners to whanake (grow), hauhake (harvest), whakarite (prepare), and whāngai (share) fresh, seasonal, and affordable kai. Thanks to their expertise and commitment, this programme continues to thrive.



If you enjoy gardening, cooking, and working alongside young people, we'd love to have you join us as a Garden to Table volunteer. Please contact Mrs Buchanan.

Term 4 Rippa Rugby

Rippa Rugby came to an end on Monday, 1st December. A big thank you to all the parents and whānau who supported their child or children throughout the season. Your encouragement and involvement helped bring our school vision of 'Actively involved learners, empowered and thriving' to life.

A special thank you to Armani and Aaliyah for stepping up to referee the junior games, and to Dan for being there every week to support all our teams with coaching and leadership. Your positive energy and commitment made the experience fun and valuable for everyone involved.



Classes 2026

Next year, we will be starting with 4 classrooms (roll of approximately 85).

To ensure that numbers are appropriate across all classrooms, placement at Whakamārama School is a decision and process that takes careful thought and consideration from staff. Classes and teaching staff for 2026 are:

Room 3 - Mrs Williams (Brenda): Years 1, 2

Room 2 - Mrs Buchanan (Karen): Years 2, 3

Room 4 - Miss Wallace (Sarah) : Years 3, 4, 5

Room 1 - Miss Johnstone (Theresa) & Miss Greatorex (Natasha): Years 6, 7, 8

Classroom Release Teacher (CRT) and Year 7 / 8 Technology specialist: Mrs Settle (Alison)

Music - Mrs Rosoman



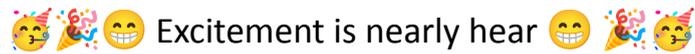
With the reduction of classrooms, we will sadly see less of Mrs Dassler (Rebekah). Rebekah has contributed immensely to our school this year and has been an integral member of our team. She has gained a position at Pāhoia School, and while we will miss her regular presence, we look forward to her continuing connection with our school community.

Attendance Management Plan

From the beginning of Term 1, 2026, all state and state-integrated schools in New Zealand are required to have an Attendance Management Plan in place. Our plan has been developed and approved by the Board, and outlines the robust systems we use to monitor and respond to patterns of non-attendance. We are committed to improving student attendance and will continue to prioritise this important area. The plan will soon be available on our school website for you to review.



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Please read over the following information to prepare for an afternoon of fun!



Whakamarama

SCHOOL FUN RUN

Monday December 15th 2pm

On Monday December the 15th is our School Colour Fun Run! This event will kick off at 2pm at Whakamarama School on the top field. We have organised an array of obstacles the tamariki can run or slip over/under/through as well as the local fire brigade to wet them down.

Thanks to our wonderful GOLD sponsors Trueman&Co ALL tamariki will be given white t-shirts on the day of the event so they can get super colourful during the run. Outside of being given these white t-shirts if students can please wear clothes they can run around in and that you don't mind getting covered in coloured powder (we recommend something bright and funky and colourful- go crazy it is the last week of school after all!).

A few things they should bring to school on the day of the event:

- Change of dry clothes
- Hat- these will get colour on (perhaps old school hats)
- Appropriate footwear or bare feet whatever rocks your boat
- Sunscreen
- Towel
- Usual morning tea and lunch (we will have a sausage sizzle during the event from 2pm)
- Filled water bottle
- Sunglasses or goggles (if perhaps you don't want any colour powder in your eyes)
- Money for purchasing food and drinks – we will have sausages, ice blocks, lollies and juices for sale. We'll also have a bucket for any donations for our wonderful fire service volunteers that will be water spraying the kids

We're encouraging parents and family members to please attend this fun event and join us from 2pm. You are even welcome to have a run after all the kids have had their turn !

If any parents would like to get involved – helping setup the obstacles, or pack down after the event, throw some colour powder at the stations we have set up, or perhaps you're a photographer and want to take some photos? please get in touch with Maria, Rachael or Emma on the PTA we'd love to hear from you whakamaramaschoolpta@gmail.com

We would like to thank all our wonderful sponsors for making this event so amazing Trueman&Co, Barfoot and Thompson, Freshchoice Omokoroa, Grayson Dales Electrical and Gammons!

We're looking forward to sharing this super exciting event with you all and please remember its not a race; its all about having fun and giving it a go. Lets hope this beautiful sunshine stays for us!

Prizes

All the prizes the tamariki have ordered from their fundraising efforts and those the PTA are supplying we would like to distribute to them once all prizes have been received; we are hoping this will be before school finishes on Wednesday 17th December (and we will distribute at school in their classrooms). If for some reason by Wednesday 17th some prizes are delayed due to Christmas postage holdups we will be in touch with those families and find a way to deliver them after school finishes 😊.

'Actively involved learners, empowered and thriving'

These children all have a December (Hakihea) birthday!!



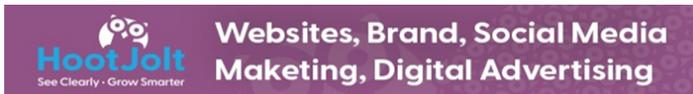
7 Years Jack F, Oscar, Lyla
 9 Years Felix S
 12 Years Isla A
 13 Years Ayda

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

December / Hakihea	
Monday 15th	PTA Colour Fun Run
Wednesday 17th	Last Day of Term 4 (school closes at 1:00 pm)
Monday 2nd February 2026	Term 1 Starts - Back to school!

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



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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



Yoga Classes

Slow Flow Yoga Class
Whakamarama 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.

Summer 2025/26 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
Thurs 18 & Fri 19 December 2025
19-30 January 2026

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

FOR BOOKINGS CONTACT DIANNE:
alaboutanimals80@gmail.com

EDVENTURE OF NZ

ACTIVE OUTDOOR EDUCATIONAL HOLIDAY PROGRAMMES



Young Explorers Camp

AONGATETE LODGE
BOOK NOW 19th-23rd January, 2026

We have an amazing week lined up with bush walks, archery, air rifle, fire building and cooking, hut building, orienteering, team building, confidence activities, dodgeball, sports tournaments, swimming, eeling, night activities and much more!

- Bus available from Hamilton, Auckland & Tauranga (limited to 50 spaces)
- Suitable for 7-13 years old
- OSCAR Subsidy available
- Aongatete Lodge is set in the Kaimai Ranges in the beautiful Bay of Plenty

PRICE \$675 5 days

MORE INFO:
edventure.co.nz
todd@edventure.co.nz
+0275349949
www.edventure.co.nz

STEPS PERFORMING ARTS

MUSICAL THEATRE HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

DATES: 14 - 16 JANUARY 2026
TIME: 9.30 AM - 3.30 PM
AGES: 7 - 12 YEARS
COST: \$170
WHERE: TAURANGA CENTRAL

DESCRIPTION:
Join STEPS for a 3 day holiday programme exploring the genres of singing, dance, acting, and performance and gain confidence, have fun and celebrate your uniqueness.

EXPERIENCE LEVEL:
No experience necessary just bring your enthusiasm and imagination

BOOKINGS:
Essential as the programmes do fill up quickly!

Contact STEPS for a booking form and information sheet
0212 744 116 paulaharrison@extra.co.nz stepsperformingarts



MODEL TRAIN SHOW

Saturday 17th, Sunday 18th
January 2026. Open 10-4pm daily

Tauranga Boys College, Gymnasium

Parking & Public Entrance off
Devonport Road.
(Opposite 14th Avenue)

Entrance Fees: Adults : \$10 Children: 12 & Under: \$5

Pub Charity Limited Proudly supported by COASTGUARD TAURANGA

PARENTS, WHĀNAU, STUDENTS, TEACHERS, SUPPORT STAFF, SCHOOL BOARD, WIDER COMMUNITY



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