Kia ora koutou *9 November 2026*

Welcome to Week 5 of Term 4. The term is quickly racing through, the weather is getting warmer and the weeks are becoming busier as we close in on the end of the year. Staff are busy getting reports and assessments completed, as well as planning ahead for 2027. With upcoming events coming thick and fast, we ask that whanau check in on the dates for upcoming events, which are included in this newsletter.



After some delays we have the pool open again for the remainder of term. The leaks have been resolved and the water is warming up quickly. Due to time constraints, we will be repainting the pool at the end of Term 1 swimming. This will ensure we have a full term of swimming and can then empty the pool to get this fully repainted.

A community survey has been shared via our Facebook page and we will also have physical copies available at the office. This is to assist with our strategic planning for 2027/2028 and to get whanau voice on our school and what is taking place. Any whanau completing the survey will go in the draw to win one of two $250 grocery vouchers, which will be drawn at our end-of-year concert.

As the year closes in, we are very aware that tamariki often start to struggle with heat, tiredness and sometimes anxiety, particularly with our Year 6 students making the move to intermediate. We are constantly reminding tamariki of behaviour expectations, encouraging them to focus on our school values and to think before they act. As a school, we have seen a massive improvement in general behaviour in recent years, positive modeling of our school values by tamariki and a real sense of belonging voiced by our tamariki and staff. This is something we continue to celebrate and to be 'Whau Valley Proud'. We ask that whanau also remind tamariki of our behaviour expectations, and support us in having a positive finish to the school year for all.

Have a great week ahead whanau!

Ngā mihi, Steve Jenkins
Principal / Tumuaki

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER	
Thursday 12 November	**Road Patrollers end-of-year Pool Trip**
Friday 13 November	**$5 Parent Offers Order Due ($5 books)**
Thursday 19 November	**WVS Athletics Day**
Tuesday 24 November	**Junior Beach Trip - Rms 3, 4, 5 (Kowharewa Bay)**
Thursday 26 November	**Junior Beach Trip - Te Rito, Rms 1 & 2 (Kowharewa Bay)** **Senior Beach Trip - Rms 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 (Whangaumu Bay)**
Wednesday 2 December	**Year 6 Graduation - 11:30am** **Reports due to go home**
Thursday 3 December	**End of Year Celebration 1:30pm - ALL whanau/family welcome** **Year 6 Raffle drawn**
Tuesday 8 December	**Last day for minder / after school care**
Wednesday 9 December	**Last school day for 2026 - 12:00pm finish (no minder)**

Ngā Karearea

Ngaruru - Room 7
We had talked a lot about cooking and baking this year and tamariki really wanted to do some.
So, our investigations began before we entered the library kitchen. We started with our Tohutaka - our recipe which we first worked on to translate into English. In groups of 4 we worked together to prepare the ingredients and cook them on the stove ready for our dish.
Once it was cooled in the fridge we had fudge!



Then the fun REALLY began!
We taste-tested our 3 different flavours - caramilk, white and dairy milk chocolate.















NGA KIWI



We have been having lots of fun in Room One as we continue to learn, explore and develop new skills together! We have been enjoying playing hockey and developing our skills through active games. The tamariki have been practising their hand-eye coordination, learning to control their hockey sticks, and working on passing and moving with the ball. It has been wonderful to see everyone giving things a go, encouraging one another and building confidence through play. We have been learning about the importance of caring for our environment. We are talking about how we can look after our school and keep our surroundings clean by putting rubbish in the bin and helping to protect our beautiful oceans, rivers and natural spaces. We are encouraging our tamariki to make thoughtful choices and understand that even small actions can make a big difference.

Our new playground has been a wonderful place for discovery, adventure and learning! The tamariki have been enjoying exploring the different spaces, challenging themselves and discovering new ways to play. Through climbing, running, balancing, jumping and moving, they are further developing their ***gross motor skills****, strength, coordination and balance.*





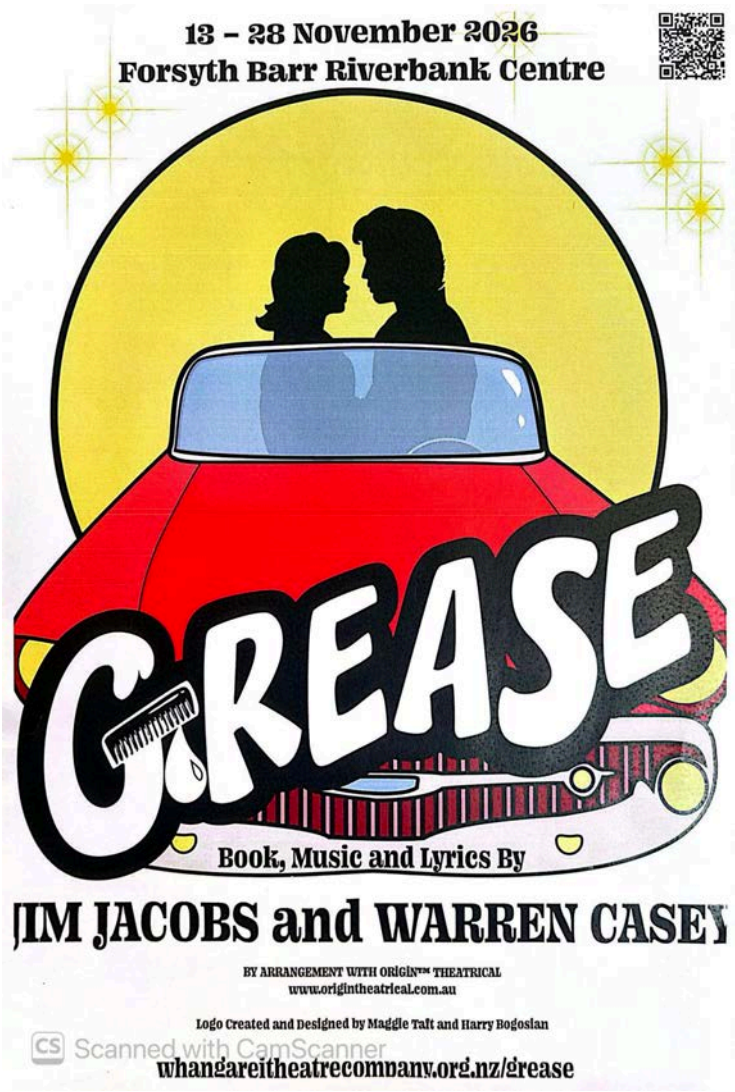












Phone messages

We are receiving an increasing number of phone calls requesting that messages be delivered to students for pickup & afterschool care. With over 320 students the office is kept very busy and although we do our best to get all messages to students, it isn't always possible, particularly if received later in the day… and if students are swimming, doing outside sports or staff are called away to assist in the sickbay.

So, we ask that you and your tamariki arrange your afterschool routine and transport ahead of time. Tamariki not collected by 3pm will automatically be placed into minder until picked up to ensure their safety.



ATTENDANCE

Term 4 - Week 4	Monday 2 November	Tuesday 3 November	Wednesday 4 November	Thursday 5 November	Friday 6 November	Weekly Average
Daily attendance rate	88%	85%	83%	85%	78%	84%
Unexplained absences	16	17	26	21	28	22
100%	Rm 5, 8, 11					

WHAU VALLEY SCHOOL ATHLETICS DAY

Get ready for a fun-filled day of athletics!

Athletics Day Timetable (Thursday 19 Novemeber)

- **9:00am – 10:45am:** Seniors (Rooms 7 - 13)
- **11:15am – 12:30pm:** Juniors (Te Rito - Room 6)
- **1:30pm:** Senior Relays
- **2:00pm:** Staff vs Students Relay

WHĀNAU COLOUR DAY!

Tamariki can come dressed in their whānau colours and show their team spirit! If unsure of which whanau group your child is in please ask the class teacher or at the office.

JUICES & SAUSAGE SIZZLE FOR SALE

Juices and a sausage sizzle will be available to purchase from 10am.
We look forward to seeing our whānau come along to support our tamariki!
Let's make it a fantastic day!

NGA KERERU



Room 9 attended the Rippa Rugby tournament with Rooms 13, 7 and 6. The tournament was more about participation and enjoyment. It was also about introducing the sport to tamariki. The tournament was aimed at Years 3 and 4.
Room 9 enjoyed every minute of the tournament! Thank you to all the parents who attended. Your support was inspiring and appreciated by our tamariki.

Matua Sam:

Matua Sam is Room 9's student teacher. This is his first year entering into the teaching profession. His focus for this visit is maths.
Room 9 have been learning about angles with him. They discovered the Angle Monster! This monster measures right angles. Room 9 headed out to the playground to discover what right angles look like at the playground.











2027 ENROLMENTS

Thank you to whanau who have completed enrolment forms for 2027. This is greatly appreciated as it allows us time to plan classes and have an indication of numbers for next year. We have had our largest amount of pre-enrolments for 2027 which is fantastic news. Should you still have enrolments to complete for younger siblings or know of anyone wanting to enrol tamariki at Whau Valley School, please let them know. We do have an enrolment zone so anyone living within the zone is automatically able to attend Whau Valley should they choose to. Anyone living outside the zone can apply to enrol at school, but placement is dependent on school numbers.

At Whau Valley School we offer several distinct benefits across wellbeing, the environment, and student support:



- Core Vision: Operates under the vision *"Kia Ako Tahi, Kia Tupu Tahi"* (Learning as One, Growing Together as One).
- Parklike Setting: Located in a welcoming, scenic environment with newly upgraded facilities, including a recently upgraded classrooms, playground and cycle track.
- Enviroschools Status: We are an Enviroschool, actively teaching sustainability, native planting (such as recent projects at the Whangarei Quarry Gardens), beehives, and green practices.



- Hauora & Mental Health Focus: Strong emphasis on physical health, regular exercise, and emotional well-being. Whanau groups, Tuakana-Teina, Buddy Classes, Jump Jam and good news assemblies
- Bilingual Classes: Currently three classes, with plans to expand in the coming years.
- Specialised Programmes: Implements the Zones of Regulation for emotional management, Mindfulness to handle stress and anxiety, and increasing Trauma-Informed practices to support tamariki.
- Neurodivergent & Special Education Need Support: There is strong community consensus that the school provides great support for neurodivergent students, including a dedicated Learning Support Centre - Te Pakau, Specialist teachers, Learning Support Coordinator, counsellors, a large support staff and a sensory room.
- External Partner Support: Collaborates with a school Energizer, Healthy Active Learners, Mana Ake, and woodwork tutor for mentoring and active play.
- Daily Care & Enrichment: Offers Breakfast Clubs in the morning, After School Care, Drawing Club at break times, and cooking/baking sessions in the library and multi-purpose area.
- Community events: Matariki, Whanau Days, Trips, Camps, Sports events, School disco



- Onsite Foundation Room: Features the Te Rito centre, right on site, making the transition into the junior syndicate smooth for young children transitioning from home or local ECE's.