Kia ora koutou *2 November 2026*

Welcome to Week 4 of Term 4, which is quickly approaching the midway point of the term. It has been wonderful to be back at school in recent weeks and be back with staff and students. After what has been quite a significant period away from school with some health issues, I look forward to being back fully for the remainder of the year and returning to full health. Once again, thank you to everyone for the ongoing support over the last few months.

We had a very busy short week last week following Labour Weekend, with tamariki participating in the Year 3 and 4 Rippa Rugby day, as well as the school Halloween Disco on Thursday evening. Our tamariki represented us very well at the rugby event, modelling our school values, demonstrating great sportsmanship and enjoying the day with other schools. We are always proud of the positive comments we get back from these events about our tamariki and school representation.



Our school disco was a massive evening with a very large number of whanau and students enjoying the Halloween dress-up disco and having lots of fun. There was a great variety of costumes, and it was awesome to see everyone enjoying themselves at the event. The food and activities were very popular with steady queues throughout the evening. A massive thank you to everyone who supported this event in some way and made it such a success. Photos and more information on these activities are included in the newsletter.

There are a number of planned property projects coming up, with most of the work being completed over the Christmas break. This will see a major roofing project underway with some major changes to the admin and senior block, including some new small canopies, as well as new roofing replacing our covered walkways and also the junior block. We look forward to seeing this work completed in the coming months, making some nice improvements to our school. Discussions are also underway around some other landscaping activities and ongoing beautification of our school. Recent improvements, such as the school pool mural, playground and cycle track upgrades, are being enjoyed and noticed by many people in our community. These ongoing changes continue to make our school more welcoming and a place that is enjoyed by our tamariki, staff and whanau. Have a wonderful week ahead whanau!!
Ngā mihi, Steve Jenkins
Principal / Tumuaki

ATTENDANCE

Term 4 - Week 3	Monday 26 October	Tuesday 27 October	Wednesday 28 October	Thursday 29 October	Friday 30 October	Weekly Average
Daily attendance rate	LABOUR DAY	79%	88%	88%	80%	84%
Unexplained absences		31	20	17	40	27
100%		Rm 6	Rm 12	Rm 6		

$5 PARENT OFFER



We are lucky enough to be part of the Duffy $5 Parent Offer again this year. This is a great opportunity to get high-quality books for only $5 each! If you would like to take advantage of this offer, please return the form along with the money to the office by Friday, 13 November.

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)**

PRINCIPAL AWARD WINNERS

At Friday's assembly, three students were nominated for the school Principal Award.

Hayden, from Room 13, was nominated for always presenting herself as a role model and being a wonderful example of a Whau Value Student, a guaranteed school leader. She shows determination and perseverance, and comes to school every day with a warm smile on her face and is always friendly and respectful towards everybody.

Hinarangi, from Room 8, was nominated for making some major improvements in the last term, especially in her confidence, her writing and her understanding of her ability to make self-improvement changes to her school life. She is positive and supportive of others.



Finally, Mia from Room 10 was nominated for being kind, respectful and helpful to those around her. She was recently seen supporting another student who was stuck on the very top of the new playground. She climbed up and showed him how to get down, supporting him until he made it down safely. She was super kind and patient with him.

Some wonderful qualities are being demonstrated by these three kotiro. Ka pai to you all.

We are Kaitiaki

In Te Rito, we have been learning all about kaitiakitanga and what it means to be kaitiaki of our world. Kaitiakitanga is about caring for and protecting our environment, including our land, waterways, plants, animals and all living things. We have been talking about how we can all make a difference through the little things we do every day.

This week, we explored recycling and learnt about what all the different bins are used for. The tamariki discussed how to sort our rubbish and which items belong in each bin. We shared why recycling is important and what might happen if nobody picked up rubbish or recycled. This sparked some great conversations about keeping our world clean, healthy and safe for everyone!






We also got creative with some kaitiaki inspired art! The tamariki coloured the world and created themselves to go around it because (They are the future and why we should keep our world safe. They shared their own ideas about how we can care for our planet. Some wonderful suggestions included “picking up rubbish at the beach,” “planting trees,” “saving water,” and helping all living things. It was lovely to hear the children thinking about the many ways they can be kaitiaki and make a positive difference in our environment.








Last week, we were lucky enough to have a very special visitor come to Te Rito, a lamb! The tamariki were very excited to meet him, give him a pat and follow him around as they watched him explore. During the visit, we learnt some interesting facts about lambs and they really enjoyed the hands-on learning experience. It was very exciting for everyone!

They have also been caring for the birds by giving them leftover fruit and fresh water. We are proud of how our tamariki are learning new ways to care for our world and sharing their ideas about how we can all be good kaitiaki.




Nga Kereru

How exciting, we had our first Interschool Year 3 and Year 4 Rippa Competition, and we were all winners on the day. Whau Valley sent 4 teams who represented our school fantastically, displaying our 4Bs beautifully, winning the majority of their games while also having a really fun time. This was a wonderful opportunity for a lot of our younger children to experience playing on a team, following set rules and also away from our own school field, skills that they can further develop as they get older. Our tamariki certainly came back to school, tired and excited from the trip. Thank you must also go to all our wonderful whanau that turned up at Pohe Island to support our teams, you guys are awesome with helping and supporting our school. A few pics from the day.








But the week was not over with the buildup to our Disco and Halloween, the children got into the spooky spirit. They explored writing scary stories where they were the victim of their own 'Frightful Story'. OOOOOOO!!!

Jacob and the Halloween Night

Once upon a time, a full moon shone brightly over New York City. Everybody was fast asleep. Hours later, the clock struck midnight. Monsters of every kind rose. Zombies rose from the dirt in the graveyard; skeletons slowly walked out of their caves; witches flew down to the city on their broomsticks. Meanwhile, a little boy named Jacob woke up and was supposed to get a glass of water. He unlocked the door and stepped outside; he snuck out to see what happened at midnight. Just a few minutes later, a witch grabbed him from the sidewalk. "AAAAAAaaaa' screamed Jacob in fear. The witch's hand grew sweaty. Jacob dropped. "AAAAAaaaa!" he screamed. SPLASH! Jacob fell into a pool. "PUH! PUH!" he tried to get the water out of his mouth. Jacob got out of the water. Zombies surrounded the area on one side; on the other were skeletons with enchanted bows and arrows. "Uh oh!" He said. "BBBBrrrrrrrrraaaaaaaiiiiiiiiiinnnnnnsss," mumbled the zombies. Bones shattered as the skeletons moved in closer. Jacob thought that skeletons were made of bones and slow at moving, he charged straight at the skeletons. PEW! bones flew everywhere. He ran all the way home and shut the door, ran upstairs,and pulled up the sheets and got into bed. Just as he was about to go to sleep, "kokoodoodle doo," the roosters crowed; it was dawn, and he had survived the night, he thought.



YEAR 6 RAFFLE

We are having a Term 4 raffle with lots of prizes on offer. Tamariki from our Year 5 /6 have brought home a sheet with 10 tickets to sell. For other whanau that are wanting to purchase tickets, these are available from the school office. We have extra ticket sheets available at the office if you are interested in selling tickets to support this kaupapa. The raffle winners will be drawn at our end-of-year school celebration on Thursday 3 December.







NGĀ KĀREAREA | KAITIAKITANGA

Ngā Kārearea have been exploring **kaitiakitanga**, learning about caring for and protecting the world around us. As part of this, some tamariki have been discovering the stories and significance of taniwha, powerful symbols of warning and guardianship. This links with our school value **Kia Haumaru | Be Safe**, reminding us to recognise dangers, look out for one another, and respect the places we live. Our young kaitiaki are learning that keeping ourselves and others safe is an important part of caring for our world! **Our taniwha have been full of fierce faces and pukana, but just like our tamariki, taniwha can also remind us to be caring, look after others and keep each other safe. Mauri ora.**







DISCO TIME










A MASSIVE thank you to everyone that supported our Halloween school disco last Thursday. A special mention to whanau that provided home baking for us to sell, this is always a popular stall at any of our school events! It was great to see so many people turn up and enjoy the evening.