

MĀKARA MODEL SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2025

Update

E ngā mātua, e ngā whānau, e ngā kaitiaki o ā tātou tamariki, tēnā koutou katoa. He mihi mahana tēnei ki a koutou katoa.

What a wonderful and busy term it has been! I am so proud of all our students for their hard work and enthusiasm. We had another fantastic term, filled with learning, laughter, and new experiences. A huge highlight was our recent planting day, where the students showed such dedication in making our school grounds more beautiful.

This week has been particularly special as we've celebrated Te Wiki o te Reo Māori, Māori Language Week. Our school has been alive with te reo and fun activities, both in and out of the classroom. Students have been testing their knowledge with daily quizzes. A big thank you to Whaea Hanna for leading the planting activity and to Whaea Jasmine for teaching all classes the art of poi toa. We've also enjoyed coming together as a whole school for waiata and a fun Kahoot! Tomorrow, we're looking forward to capping off the week with a special time capsule activity.

On Friday we welcome Capital Kiwi for a morning of Kiwi themed activities and learning. It is great to have the team back again to continue to build on our strong partnership.

A warm welcome to our new Board members! I'm looking forward to working with you over the next three years. And to our departing members, Rachel, Genieve, and Briar, a huge thank you for your service and all your hard work on the Board.

I hope you all have a relaxing holiday break and as always, if you have any questions or concerns, please get in touch.

Ngā mihi nui
James

Whānau Hui

Please join us for our whānau hui on Friday at 2:30pm in the library. It will be a short hui but we will sing a waiata and present certificates.

Primary Teacher Strike

Primary teachers that are members of the NZEI union are striking, over pay and conditions, on Thursday 23 October.

As a result the school will be closed for instruction on Thursday 23 October, but we will be open for supervision. That is, there will be staff at school to supervise students, but they will not be teaching.

If you have any questions about this, please contact James, james@mms.school.nz

Upcoming Events

- Friday 19 September: Capital Kiwi Day, Whānau Hui and last day of the term.
- Monday 13 October: School athletics trials
- Tuesday 14 October: Camp parent hui 5:30pm
- Monday 20 October: Camp
- Tuesday 21 October: Year 3 Sports Festival
- Thursday 23 October: School Closed for Instruction but open for supervision.
- Friday 24 October: Staff Only Day
- Monday 27 October: Labour Day
- Friday 31 October: Western Zone Athletics
- Thursday 6 November: Whānau Hui
- Friday 7 November: Gumboot Friday and Te Wharewaka school trip
- Friday 14 November: School Photos

Term Dates

Term 4

Monday 6 October - Tuesday 16 December.
Staff Only Day - Friday 24 October

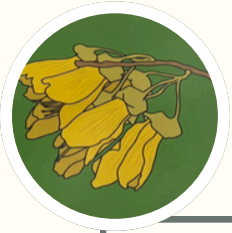
2026 dates

Listed in the BOT section below



Te wiki o te reo Māori





Introducing our new Board

I'm pleased to announce that the 2025 school board election process is over, and we have three new faces joining. Please join me in welcoming Briar Carter, Carys Tidy and Jennifer Wittig to the team. James Ryan and myself are also continuing on the board.

Some short snippets about each of us are included below.

In other good news, the Education Review Office visited our kura and completed an assessment of the school mid-year. We recently received their final report and it was very positive. You can access the full report [here](#).

Also, at a recent Board meeting Andrew shared the mid-year school achievement data.

% at or above expectation	Mid 2022 OTJ	End 2022 OTJ	Mid 2023 OTJ	End 2023 OTJ	Mid 2024 OTJ	End 2024 OTJ	Mid 2025 OTJ
Reading	76%	83%	77%	85%	77%	89%	81%
Writing	60%	72%	67%	79%	74%	82%	81%
Maths	74%	88%	80%	88%	80%	91%	86%

This is an excellent result for the school and shows the hard work of the staffing team is paying off. Well done to James, Andrew, Aaron, Jasmine, Hanna, Chylnése, Kiri and Max for all the hard work.

Finally, the Board has approved the 2026 term dates as indicated below. There will be two Ministry approved Staff Only Days added.

Term	Start	Finish	Half Days
1	Monday 9 February	Thursday 2 April	78
Public Holidays: None			
2	Monday 20 April	Friday 3 July	106
Public Holidays: Anzac Monday 27 April, King's Birthday Monday 1 June			
3	Monday 20 July	Friday 25 September	100
Public Holidays: None			
4	Monday 12 October	Friday 18 December	98
Public Holidays: Labour Day: Monday 26 October			

Ngā mihi nui
Joe Coyle
Presiding Member
MMS Board of Trustees

Joseph Coyle

Kia ora koutou, my name is Joe and I'm the proud parent of Delphi (Kiwi) and Stella (Tui) at Makara Model. We live at Makara Beach with my wife (Louise) and have been part of the community here for 15 years. I served on the previous board since 2024 and look forward continuing to serve the school and our community. My mahi is as a geologist where I'm involved in exploration around NZ. When not at work I enjoy fishing, diving, cooking and spending time with my family.



Briar Carter

Hi, I'm Briar, Addy's mum. I grew up in Makara and went to this school myself (a long time ago). I've worked with children as a qualified horse-riding instructor and in early childhood centres, and I've recently trained as a Circle of Security facilitator, a program that supports children's emotional wellbeing. I care deeply about our tamariki hope to bring a down-to-earth, thoughtful voice to the board.



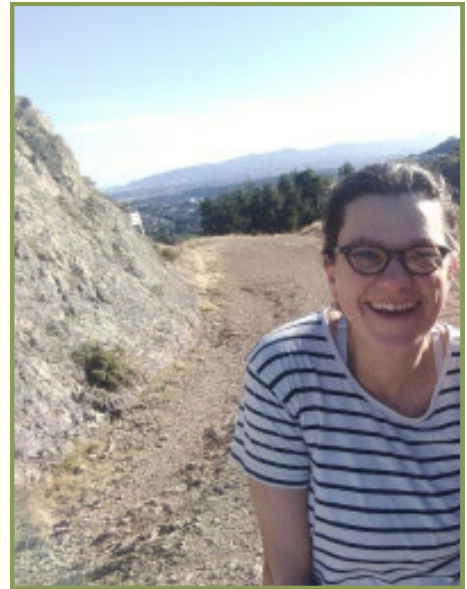
James Ryan

I am honoured to be re-elected to the Mākara School Board. Over two consecutive terms I have been privileged to help guide our school's evolution from a place of promise to a vibrant hub of learning and community spirit. Together with dedicated fellow board members and our amazing staff, we have expanded our learning spaces, introduced innovative literacy and numeracy programmes, and nurtured the sense of belonging that makes Mākara a model for other schools to follow. By day I serve as Policy and Compliance Manager at Trade Me, championing trust and safety. When I'm not acting as the family taxi driver or working on a new project in my shed, I'm slowly making my way through the Dune prequel novels. Looking ahead, I am eager to continue build on enhancing our outdoor learning environment. I would be honoured to serve our tamariki once more.



Jennifer Wittig

Kia Ora, I'm Jen, māmā to Lily (Piwakawaka) and Finn. We've lived in Mākara for 3 years and we love it - we came with 2 cats, and we have inherited three sheep and 13 chickens. I've been actively involved in the running of Island Bay Playcentre the last few years, and have had a varied job history; before having tamariki I was a sport massage therapist. Hobbies include knitting, reading, drawing, going for hill runs and chasing my kids around when they aren't absorbed in lego.



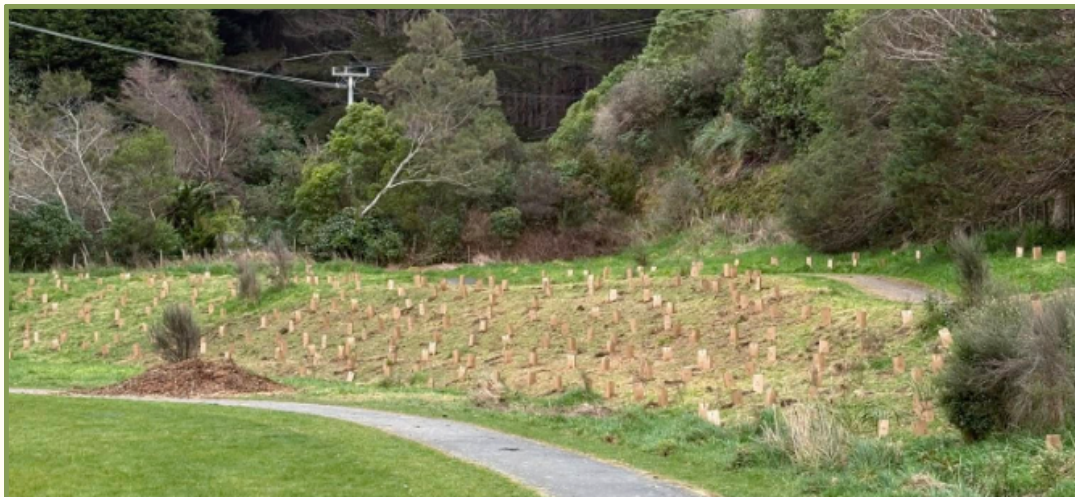
Carys Tidy



Tēnā koutou katoa. I feel privileged to witness how close connection with nature underpins our children's learning and wellbeing. With nearly 20 years of experience working across early childhood education and primary settings in New Zealand and the UK—including co-designing learning spaces, supporting literacy, and leading inclusive teaching teams—I have seen how a safe, nurturing foundation is the key to confident, competent and motivated learners. I want to bring both professional insight and whānau values to our Board as we nurture a kura where every child thrives as their whole selves. What I bring to the Board Curriculum & pedagogy – experience with NZC and UK curricula; skilled in embedding Te Tiriti o Waitangi, reo and tikanga, and learning through nature. Learning is at the core of our Board's governance responsibilities: achievement, progress, equity and wellbeing for every learner are our shared goals I am excited work collaboratively with our principal and community to uphold these for te kura.



Planting Day



What a day! Our Mākara Model School Planting Day was a huge success, and we're so proud of our community! Together, we planted over 300 trees, taking a giant step toward building a beautiful forest for the future.

Our tamariki had so much fun learning outside with the fantastic team from Mountain to Sea and Enviroschools, who ran engaging workshops throughout the morning. It's so special to see our students connect with nature in this way.

A massive thank you to Whaea Hannah for her incredible organisation and to Debbie for her mountain of work in getting everything ready for the planting. Ngā mihi nui to the whānau that helped with digging holes and supplying mulch and equipment. And of course, a huge thank you to all the parents and siblings who came to help out. Your support is what makes our school community so special.





Quiz Night



The quiz night last Sunday was a huge success, raising \$4555 for our kura. A Massive thank you to Emma, Lori, Carys and Belinda for all your mahi in organising the event and to all of you who attended, bought or sold raffle tickets or helped with the raffle prizes.

Also a big thank you o all our incredible prize donors, who's generosity meant we were able to offer such a wealth of amazing goodie bags, raffle, spot, and team prizes. Not only did these offerings really add to the excitement of the evening, but they mean so much and made such a difference to our fundraising efforts.

The Makaracarpas

The Wee Blue Bach

Mākara Wharekai/Café

New WorldKarori

New Zealand Blood Service

Red Seal

Royal New Zealand Ballet

Circa Theatre

Alana Wines

Raglan Roast

Domino's PizzaNorthland

Zealandia Te Māra a Tāne Ecosanctuary

Body & Soul beauty clinic

Empire Cinema and Eatery.

Marsden Books

Arobake

Graze Wine Bar

Tui Balms

By Nature Skincare

ECOYA

Antipodes Scientific Green Beauty

Absolute Bliss Beauty Therapy

Fix and Fogg





Whakanui Pukapuka

A massive shout-out to our brilliant students!

We couldn't be prouder of the two teams of four from Mākara Model School who attended the very first Whakanui pukapuka, literacy quiz. The event, held at Wellington Girls' College, brought together students from across our Kahui Ako to celebrate a love for books and reading.

Our teams were simply phenomenal! They showcased incredible knowledge and worked together seamlessly, making us all proud. It was great to see them shine and represent our school with such enthusiasm.

Ngā mihi nui to Andrew for helping to organise the event on behalf of the Kahui Ako and for selecting and transporting our teams to the event.

