

# Community Newsletter

## SHANNON SCHOOL

Wednesday 30th April 2025

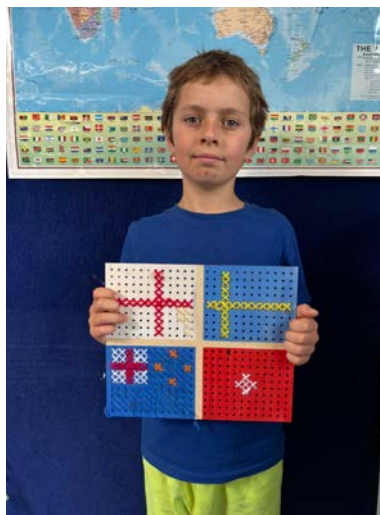
Grey Street Shannon Ph: 06 3627866

Text Your Absences: 027 7555591

Email: [office@shannon.school.nz](mailto:office@shannon.school.nz)

Website: [www.shannon.school.nz](http://www.shannon.school.nz)

Facebook: Shannon School Te Kura o Hanana



## Principal's Voice



### Kia ora e te whānau o Shannon

He rerekē ngā kare ā-roto e tuhi ana i tēnei pānui whakamutunga ki a koutou. He haerenga whakamīharo tēnei ki te whai wāhi ki tēnei hapori whakamīharo, ā, he honore nui mōku te mahi hei tumuaki mō koutou. Kua noho a Kura o Hanana me te hapori whānui hei whānau mōku, ā, ka mau tonu ahau ki ngā hononga, ngā maharatanga, me ngā angitu kua tutuki i a tātou katoa.

*I have mixed emotions as I write this final newsletter to you all. It has been an incredible journey being part of this wonderful community, and it has been a great honour for me to serve as your principal. Shannon School and the wider community have become like family to me, and I will always hold dear the connections, memories, and achievements we have shared together.*

Reflecting on my time here, I am immensely proud of what we have accomplished as a school. The dedication of our staff, the enthusiasm of our students, and the unwavering support of our whānau, hāpu, and community have made Shannon School a place of growth, learning, and belonging. Whether it was celebrating student achievements, seeing the progress in our classrooms, or enjoying the many events and gatherings that bring us together, every moment has been special.

I am especially proud of the many initiatives and improvements we have achieved together. Te Whare Kākano has provided a nurturing space for our tamariki to learn reo, tikanga, history, and culture, while the heated pool has ensured our students can enjoy swimming for longer. The addition of Te Kauta Manaaki (technology kitchen) has opened up exciting opportunities for learning and for our lunch programme, and the development of the basketball courts has fostered a love for sport and teamwork. Our commitment to literacy and numeracy has strengthened reading, writing, and maths skills, while the Enviroschools programme has encouraged our students to be kaitiaki (guardians) of the environment. Camps, school productions, and the mahi rākau (woodwork) space have enriched the cultural and physical learning experiences of our tamariki, helping them grow in confidence and connection to their heritage.

To our students, you are the heart of this school. Keep striving for excellence, be kind to one another, and never stop believing in yourselves. To our staff, thank you for your commitment and passion. You make a difference every day. And to our whānau and community, your support has been invaluable, and I am grateful for the aroha (love and care) you have shown me throughout my time here.

I have been fortunate to have worked with such a supportive, active, and passionate Board of Trustees. It has been a pleasure working with the team to create an inclusive learning programme and environment, where all feel valued and appreciated.

While it is bittersweet to say goodbye, I am excited for the next chapter as I take on the role of Principal at Plimmerton School. Shannon will always hold a special place in my heart, and I look forward to seeing the school continue to thrive in the years ahead.

Thank you all for your kindness, support, and the many wonderful memories. This is not goodbye, but rather "ka kite anō."

**Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi, engari he toa takitini.** (My strength is not as an individual, but as a collective.)

**Ngā mihi nui,**  
Nick Julian

## Board of Trustees



Tēnā koutou katoa,

Ngā mihi o te wā ki a koutou. He mihi maioha ki te whānau whānui o te kura nei.

Autumn has definitely arrived but what a fantastic summer we enjoyed here in Shannon. It was especially exciting to see our school pool in action — now beautifully solar-heated and well-used over the warmer months. This has been an awesome asset for our tamariki, and we're so pleased to see it being enjoyed.

This term has obviously been marked by the significant change our kura is facing with the massive loss of our much-loved tumuaki, Nick, who has served our school with dedication, heart and humour. Nick's leadership has left a lasting impact on Shannon School, and we wish him all the very best for his next chapter.

We are also very excited to welcome Rochelle as our new Principal. Rochelle brings a fantastic perspective, vision, and passion for our kids and community — and we look forward to working alongside her as we continue to support the growth and success of our school.

A personal highlight for me this term has been joining in the lunchtime games of touch rugby. It's been awesome to see so many students involved, showing teamwork, sportsmanship and just having a great time.

On the Board front, we are looking forward to welcoming a new member (yet to be determined) next term - stepping in to replace Sole, in particular her role as the finance officer. Watch this space. Big thanks too to the principal appointment panel, who were so well-supported by Shona Oliver. It was a privilege to work alongside you all.

It's been great to see new initiatives happening at Shannon School — including after-school swimming lessons (thanks Mo!) and the trial of an after-school sports programme led by Abby Neudorf, both of which have provided a great opportunity for our tamariki to stay active, build skills, and have fun after school.

Looking ahead, we are excited about the upcoming noho for Te Whare Kakano whānau on the 9th of May. This will be a special opportunity for our whānau and tamariki to deepen their connection to local history, tikanga Māori, and one another. We are also excited as we prepare for the opening of the mahi toi/mahi rakau (woodwork) space, which is being spear-headed by Te Meera Hyde.

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou katoa — thank you to our staff, students, whānau, and the wider community for your ongoing support of our kura and for making it a place where our children can thrive.

Me poipoia te kakano kia puawai

Leigh, on behalf of the Board of Trustees



## Ka Kite Ano Mr Julian

We had a beautiful farewell for Mr Nick Julian on Thursday, 10th April. He starts his new job as Principal of Plimmerton School in Term 2. The farewell was a beautiful occasion that was well attended by school, whānau and community alike. Here are some photos from the day.





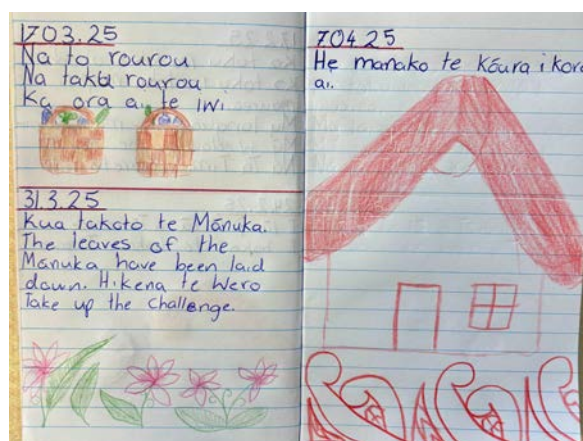


Ko Te Whare Kākano te timatanga whakaheke o te reo tapu o ngā mātua tupuna mai ngā maunga teitei ki ngā awa whānui ānei ngā uri tapu o ngā mātāwaka e whakatau nei e whakatau nei ko Kiingi Tuheitia ki te rangi ko Kuini Ngawai hono i te po ki te whenua kua ora kaha mai te whare o Potatau i te ao i te po. E rere ana te mihi aroha ki ngā mate o te waa haere haere atu ra. Ki te hunga ora tēnā koutou katoa.

He maha akoako mātou i tēnei wāhanga tuatahi o 2025. He mea tino kaha i roto i te whare ko ngā mahi toi e tuitui ana ki tō mātou pakiwaitara o tō matou whānau o tena o tena. I noho ki te kura te rōpū Whatu Pureke e rua o ngā po. I ako mātou ngā tikanga o te harakeke me ngā kupu whānau o te Whatu Pureke. I ako ētehi tamariki i ngā kowhaiwhai ka tāngia i runga i te tīhate. I tukutuku hoki a ētehi tamariki.



Ka timata ngā tamariki ki te kohikohi i ngā whakatauki, kua kōrero tātou te tikanga o ngā whakatauki me ngā horopaki e whakamahi ana. I te wiki o te Matatini i ako mātou te whakapapa o Tānerore.



I tata nei i ako mātou ki te marae mo te tangihanga o tētehi Koroua o Ngāti Whakatere me Ngāti Takihiku. He pai mo ngā tamariki i hono ki ngā Pukenga o i a wahi o te marae. E mihi ana ki ngā kaimanaaki o te waa \*





We have had an eventful term in Te Rito Hub! We welcomed several new people, including our new teacher, Whaea Carlene. We have enjoyed diving into literacy this term, focusing on structured literacy, building our vocabulary and expanding our strategy base to work out a variety of words! Our tuakana started a novel study on Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and have been looking at descriptive language and creative writing, planning their own delicious chocolate bar flavours and packaging.



We loved having our whānau in for Whānau Day in Week 8. We shared some of our fun literacy and maths activities and some work from the inquiry we have been doing, learning all about ourselves. We completed and shared three self-portraits in different styles, based on different artists we have been learning about. Our mini art exhibition was a hit, and you can see our art displayed across the classroom and in the school office. We are going to







We have actively participated in many learning journeys this term. Some of our highlights include an inquiry explaining our family's uniqueness and special traditions. We also translated our inquiry into the visual arts to tell the stories about our family. We were excited to share our Term One learning with whanau and friends. We presented lots of exciting activities around maths, literacy, sports, the arts, and what makes our school special. Meeting with our teachers and whanau to discuss our next-step learning goals at our 3-Way Conferences was great. We will miss Mr Julian's daily maths classes and joining us in lunchtime sporting events and Education Outside the Classroom initiatives. Mr Julian thank you! Mr Julian, you rock! Living the dream!



3-Way Conferences



Cardboard Construction with Whaea Lisa

Headphones on for Steps Web Reading

When the weather is fine we like to eat outside under our beautiful trees.







King Country Energy,  
owner of the local  
Mangahao Power Station  
is proud to supply this  
year's stationery packs  
and contribute towards  
the Term 1 school  
swimming instructor.



Thanks to the team at  
Fujifilm Business Innovation  
Corp for printing our  
newsletters each term!

**FUJIFILM**  
Value from Innovation



Kia ora

Our school would sincerely like to thank and acknowledge King Country Energy for their continued support. Not only have they continued to supply stationery packs for our children but they also support swimming lessons for our tamariki. Recently, the Mangahao Power Station celebrated 100 years. Many people were lucky enough to secure a booking for a tour. KCE will donate approximately \$2000.00 to our kura from the bus fares that day. This will go towards funding a swim instructor for term 4.

Ka mau te wehi! Fantastic!  
Shannon School Office

#### Join the Adventure – Tokomaru Cubs Wants You!

Tēnā koutou whānau,

I'm Erin (n.b. The Cubs have christened me with the name City Pigeon, story for another day!) a leader at Tokomaru Cubs, and we're looking for new Cubs to join the adventure!

At Cubs (ages 8-11), we love whittling, building bases, playing games, and going on epic camps. Our Cubs get to connect with Cubs around the world and take part in thrilling outdoor activities like kayaking, tramping, and cooking.

We meet every Wednesday at 5:30 pm at the Tokomaru Scouts Hall. No sign-up needed—just come along and get started! For more info, email [tokomaru@group.scouts.nz](mailto:tokomaru@group.scouts.nz).

Erin