

Arahunga School

Empowering learners to be active, confident and connected in their community



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Important Dates:

School dates are up on our website.

- Friday 13th December - last day of Term 4
- Monday 30th January - Term 1 starts



Te Anga Paua o Aotearoa National Kapa Haka Competition

This Term our Transition class went to Te Anga Paua o Aotearoa National Kapa Haka Competition. The students were incredible and performed in front of a large audience on a big stage at the new Takina Convention Centre in Wellington. It was a huge event that ran over two days with many groups there from throughout Aotearoa/New Zealand. Our group name is Mana Aroha and we have combined with some of the Sommerville vocation programme students this year. We made pois, patus and headbands as part of our preparation. We also printed our own T-Shirts. as well as doing many hours of practice leading up to the event.

Our uniform represents 'Mana-Aroha' - the heart shape represents Aroha and the large koru represents Mana. The protection of the small koru represents our whanau. Our vision is inclusivity and a place of belonging for our neuro diverse roopu from Arahunga School. It is also a goal to maintain connections to our students when they leave us. Our students will be tutoring other teachers and students for Kapa Haka in the future to empower them to lead their own classes. It has been a wonderful year of kapa haka that has allowed our students to make strong bonds with each other and staff and be included as Maori and Neuro diverse young adults.

Message from Shirley

As we approach the end of another school year I would like to take the time to reflect on the busy year we have had. We have continued to experience significant roll growth with 29 new students in 2024 and at least another 10 due to enrol with us at the beginning of the 2025 school year. This takes us close to 110 students. This roll growth is a testament to the hard work of our staff and the trust families place in us to provide a high quality learning environments. In order to meet this growth, we have been fortunate to welcome a number of outstanding new teachers to our team. I want to mention that Meli Brooks, our Whanganui Regional Manager is taking leave for 2025 and Nigel Colless will be stepping in to cover for the year. Nigel and the rest of the new staff are looking forward to meeting and connecting with you all next year.

Another highlight of the year has been our continued development of our Campus School site. We recently moved into our brand new office space which is providing a great environment for collaboration and support for our staff at Campus. Our next project in our Campus Development plan is the refurbishment of the Therapy Team space. We are hoping this will be ready in term one and the therapy team will be able to move onsite at Campus.

Thank you all for your patience with the carpark situation. We are scheduled to have the car park surface finished by term two well before the winter sets in.

As always none of this would be possible without the dedication of our staff, the enthusiasm of our students and the support of our whanau and caregivers. Together we continue to work towards creating a vibrant and thriving school. Thank you all for your ongoing support and partnership. I wish you all a safe and restful holiday break. . We look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new year ready for more exciting learning opportunities.



Ngā mihi nui,

Shirley Wisnewski
Principal / Tumuaki

2024 Graduates!

This year we have three fabulous young people graduating. We want to wish them all the very best for the next step in their journey.



Makayla-Rae Shackleton



Joshua Bolger



Aaran Ngatai-Andrew

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New Enrolments

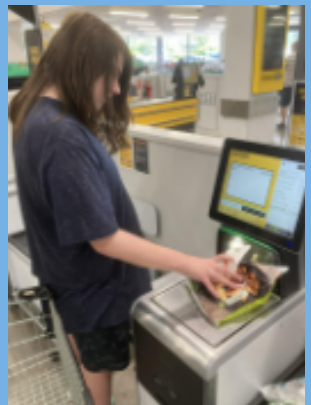
We would like to extend a very special welcome to the new learners and their whanau who have chosen to join Arahunga School during this term.

We want to welcome our newest learners to Arahunga School:

- Bastian Messenger - Otaki College
- Kimarni Maihi - Carlton I
- Mila Maihi - Carlton II
- Gemma Staite - Ramanui
- Skylar Tucker - Carlton II
- Liberty Walden-Henry - Campus I

Campus II - Senior Class

This Term the senior class at Campus went to the National Army Museum at Waiouru. We loved climbing on the tanks and dressing up and looking at the guns. We also visited the honey shop and got to try on the beekeeping suit. It has been hard to say goodbye to Malachi as he is leaving Arahunga and moving to Auckland. Blake was very helpful and helped make a list and go to the shop with support to get the things we need for our shared lunch. We wish you all of the best for the future Malachi.



Francis Douglas Memorial College

This year, we are thrilled to welcome two new students to the Benilde Room. We now have a team of ten students and eight staff! Students access a mixture of mainstream and specialist classes which makes for a busy schedule!

We have loved participating in TSSSA sporting events. Our students love the opportunity to get active, show off their skills, and enjoy building friendships with students from other Taranaki schools. It is great to gain tips from a range of coaches, and organisations such as Parafed, Halberg and Special Olympics.

We have also been running the ever-popular Benilde Room scone shop. Every week, our students roll up their sleeves to bake fresh scones, learning valuable skills in teamwork, responsibility, and customer service. We love seeing the students connecting with different staff around the College and coming up with plans on how to spend their money!

This year, we have again partnered with local charity, Gabby Starlit Hope to help put smiles on faces of children in hospital. The boys help by putting together their play packs, ready for Gabby's Mum to distribute to those in need. A bit shout out to Sarah who nominated the Benilde Room for a Volunteering New Plymouth award where they won the youth award.

This year we celebrate Joshua who is coming to the end of his time at FDMC! Some of our College teachers have been with Joshua since he was 5 years old at St Joseph's! Joshua has brought a huge amount of energy, enthusiasm and humour to our College and it will be very quiet without him! We wish him all the best for his adventures in 2025.

What do you like about the Benilde room?

Lucas - "It's like Christmas everyday!"

Josh B "My friends - hanging out with Nathan"

Aideon "The learning we have, the teachers we have and the fun chats and jokes"

George "Hanging out with my Nathan"

Lucca "We have a lots of love and support around us"

Kruiz "Everything!"

Mahia "Getting to do my own learning and awesome teachers especially Jono"

Josh K "I am happy in the Benilde Room with Alakai"

Alakai "I like the fun activities"



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Atawhai Manawa - Ramanui

*‘Kahore taku toa i te toa takitahu, he toa takitini.’
We cannot succeed without the support of those around us.*

We cannot believe it's nearly a wrap for the year 2024.

SOOO many steps forward have been made and from the smallest to the biggest we shout out our praise and excitement. It is such a privilege to work with our students and see them blossom and grow.

We've had a wonderfully busy year full of different types of learning as we have followed the needs and desires of our students.

We have to say getting back to swimming this term has been a real highlight for everyone. RDA has also had a positive impact on us all and the interaction between coaches, horses and students is very special. We think Lucy is a horse whisperer.

After three terms of building happening around us we now have a very posh bathroom with a neat roof hoist. Lucy and Melah also get to soar around our classroom on a fabulous roof hoist. The hoist standing belt is a hit with both girls too and they enjoy the opportunity to move and sway to many different types of music.

I would like to acknowledge the support of our 'Atawhai Manawa' room's staff and all of the incredible visitors who wrap themselves around us for the benefit of our students.

We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season and look forward to catching up again next year.

*With lots of Christmas Cheer
Julie, Jess, Arren, Kyla and Janet*



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Atawhai Manawa - Ramanui

Floating flour.



I've got my groove on.



I'm in my happy place.



What a water kid!



So much water!



It's time to ride again.



I'm so glad to be back with my Cookie.



It's great to be back at riding!



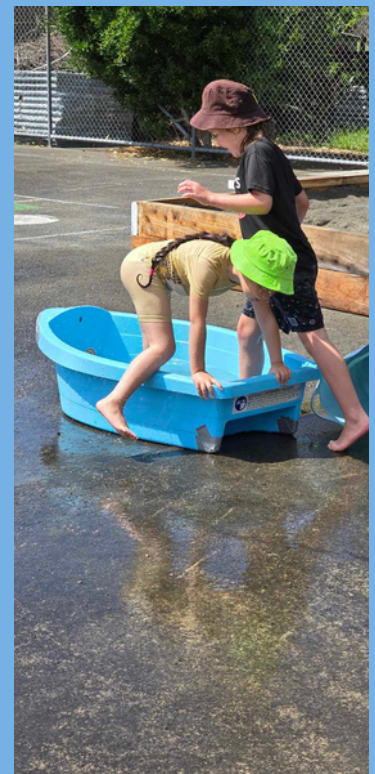
Buoyant Lucy.



Campus I - Junior Class

This term Campus Jnr class has enjoyed our term 4 theme of Splish Splash. The children have tried out various water activities and resources which have been great during these hot days! Paddling pools, sprinklers, water tables, the hose etc have been used for lots of imaginative play, cause and effect, sharing and problem solving skills.

This term we welcomed Liberty-Lee into our class who has settled in brilliantly. At the end of this term we will farewell Carly who is moving within the Arahunga schools to Carlton and Blaine who is off to Rutherford School. We wish them all the best for their time at their new schools. We hope everyone has a great Christmas and look forward to seeing everyone again in term 1, 2025.



Carlton I

Carlton 1 has had a busy last term and time has flown by. We were very excited that the school swimming pool was back in action and the weather has allowed us to swim each week. All students are working on individualised swimming goals and we are seeing their confidence grow each session. Halloween was a fun day for our class, and is a favourite holiday of some of our learners. We dressed up, made halloween themed crafts, and even went trick or treating next door. A big thanks to Louise from Carlton 2 who made this such a valuable and enjoyable experience for all of our learners. Tough kids was another highlight for our class this term. We had full attendance and everyone participated in their own way at their own pace. Water and water play has been the theme of the term and many an afternoon has been spent outside playing with the water table, working on our fine and gross motor skills. Next up for us is Christmas, and the students have already started to decorate the room and make their decorations to take home at the end of the term.

This term we officially welcomed Kimarni to our class. It has been lovely getting to know her and her whanau. Term four is also our last term with Dani, as he transitions on to the Rutherford Hub in 2025. Dani has been a delight to have in our class, he has a great sense of humor and it has been a pleasure to see him grow and mature over the time I have been here with him. We wish Dani and his fantastic whanau all the best at their new Hub.

Feliz Navidad, Meri Kirihimete, and Best Wishes for a safe and happy holiday period, from the Carlton 1 team.



Therapy Team

The Therapy Team have been using a large black pop up square sensory tent. This can be folded down, put up and taken down in each classroom. The black tent has a covered door and windows, and has a muscle mat and blanket for comfort.

Inside the tent therapists have been using a range of light up toys and objects to insite language and discussion around the lights, shapes and colours that can be seen in the dark.

The tent has been used to encourage turn taking, sharing, waiting, use of AAC modelling and at times a physical obstacle course to complete before going into the tent.

The tent has been magical for many learners and new language and sensory experiences have been had.



Carlton II

We welcomed two new learners this term, Skylar and Mila. We have five amazing girls. Our theme this term is, Splish Splash and the children have been involved with a lot of water based activities along with mud where we all were able to use some of our focus words dirty, clean, wet and dry, and many more core words. The learners have enjoyed using our new gutter tracks and have been popular with pouring water down to the clam pond where they would watch the different sized splashes or simply stand in the water and make bubbles. The stands for the gutters were kindly made locally and donated to our class. Our weekly therapy team visits have been a huge hit with everybody excitedly engaging with their focused learning activities. We have been enjoying swimming twice weekly in our indoor heated pool. We had our annual outing to Tough Kids quiet hour at Cooks Gardens where almost everybody got wet by taking on the big slide. Harold was a pleasant surprise too. The course was adapted really well and we are very lucky to have an event like this. Carlton school has dance sessions during their lunch breaks which we have thoroughly enjoyed. Thank you to everybody who has supported our class this year, have a wonderful Christmas. See you in 2025.

Louise, Sherley, Sarita, Keely and Tayla



St Joseph's New Plymouth

So much fun at St Joseph's this term! We had a whole school athletics day in Week 3. It was fabulous to see the older students supporting our Pūmanawa Hub students. We all had turns to throw, run and jump.

Another highlight was Grandparents Day where we had lots of visitors who came and joined in with our class work. Our students loved sharing their Hub space with their whānau.

It's been a term for safety with a Fire Drill and an Earthquake Drill. We were very proud of our students for coping with the loud alarms and excited classmates.

Friday afternoons have been reserved for our music jam sessions. All of the students LOVE using the instruments to make lots of sound!

As the year nears its end, we have been reflecting on how well our students and staff have developed this Hub space from scratch and how much progress we have noticed in our students, particularly with their language and communication skills.

We wish all the other Hubs and their students a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



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Tawhero

Tēnā Koutou e te whanau

This term we had 2 sessions with Sense Rugby and what an amazing experience it was. Rongoa for our tinana, hinengaro and our wairua. We also connected to honouring the Treaty, Toitū Te Tiriti, by making a flag with our handprints and honouring Mikaere who went on the hikoi. Mikaere expressed his Mana Motuhake through his beautiful paintings.



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Transition



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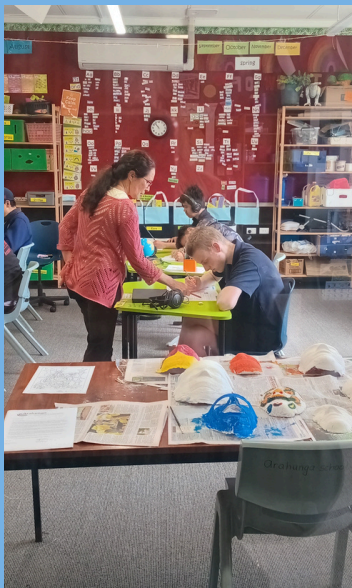
Tena koutou whanau

Wow what a year we have had here at our kura! Robotics, WCC Hip hop dance classes, Spirit days, Mitre10 Tough teens, Walking trip around our town and to the fruit store, Swimming, Gymnastics, Friday sports, Equiachieve, Literacy, Numeracy, Special places here in Whanganui and our visit to the farm.

The pictures that follow this panui will show you how we have enjoyed our time together and the learning we have been doing here at WCC Arahunga!

We have enjoyed every day with an awesome team of teachers and support staff and not forgetting our learners and their whanau. We are blessed to have 2 new learners Jack Kuzman and Ryder Topia who have settled well into our classes. We are also looking forward to 2025 and welcoming Wiripene, Nita, Wilson and Freedom who are transitioning over from Rutherford Junior High School.

On behalf of myself, Whaea Sharon Kaua, Whaea Alice Jonker, Whaea Heather Leggett, Whaea Marata Scott, Matua Kevin Day, Matua Samuel Williams, Whaea Janet Littlejohn, Whaea Aileen Kennedy, Whaea Talitha Heywood and Whaea Coral Harnett.



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Rutherford

Arahunga RJHS Students and staff had a great day at Mitre 10 Tough Kids catching up with old friends, getting wet and overcoming lots of challenges. What a wonderful opportunity for our students to get involved in an all school event just like everyone else.

