Friday 20th November 2026

Newsletter

Pūrākaunui School

Growning curious, connected and confident learners

Principal's Message

Kia ora whānau,

It has been a wonderful and busy week here at school! I thoroughly enjoyed cooking from our school garden with the tamariki on Wednesday—they were amazing at organising, chopping, cooking, and tidying up after themselves.

Family Fun Day Thank You's - A massive thank you to everyone who supported our Family Fun Day! It was a fantastic success, raising just over $2,500 for our kura. Events like this wouldn't happen without our incredible community, and we want to give a special shout-out to:

Generous Donations: Alice Geary and family for their generous donation, Tracey and Barry for their annual donation to fund the bouncy castle, and Antony Deaker for his generous book donations.

Music & Entertainment: The Wild Chitokakas for their wonderful live music and generous donation to the school, and Mark for monitoring the bouncy castle.

Café & Pizza Mahi: Brit, Basil, Daniel, and friends for running the pizza and café, alongside Alice, Sarah, and Sophie for managing money collection and monitoring the café.

Stallholders & Plants: Manu Berry, Antony Deaker, Alex and Hillary, Lakoda, Betty, and Su for running stalls, and Sarah for once again bringing her amazing potted plants to sell and donating the proceeds back to the school.

Raffle & Local Businesses: Brit for doing an amazing job collecting prizes, and all the local businesses that donated to support our kura.

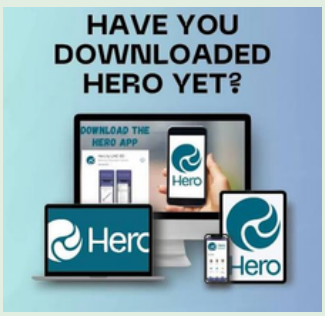
Our Tamariki, Whānau & Staff: Everyone who joined in on the day with colouring-in and sculpture making, the children for writing letters and making flyers to promote our community school, and all of our staff for the extra effort they put in every day to keep our wee country school running smoothly. Thank you Anne for your help!

Assessments & HERO Reports We have been completing assessments this week, and we want to ensure everyone can easily access their child's learning updates and upcoming reports on the HERO App. Sophie and I are offering 10–15 minute after-school catch-ups to help you get set up on HERO or discuss your child's learning. Please reach out if you would like to book a time.

Kā mihi nui,
Mikaela Wilson
Principal



Mikaela Wilson
Principal



Whānau Fun Day !













TERM 4 Calendar

- **Tuesday 8th - Wednesday 9th December** Overnight Leavers Camp Whareakeake
- **Wednesday 9th December** Beach Day & BBQ Whareakeake whole school
- **Thursday 10th December** HERO reports and meet the teacher
- **Monday 14th - Tuesday 15th December** Whole School Overnight Camp & trip to the Marine Science Centre 1
- **Thursday 17th December** 2026 Assembly End of Year Performances and Certificates, shared Kai at - Long Beach Hall
- **Thursday 28th January 2027** START BACK

SWIMMING FRIDAY - Transport required to and from school to Port Chalmers Pool
Term 4 Swimming Details

- Location: Port Chalmers School Pool (5 Session Road, Port Chalmers)
- Days & Dates: Every Friday, starting 30 October through to 11 December (6 weeks)
- Timing: Friday afternoon 1:30 -2:30 (exact time slot to be confirmed)

Looking Ahead to Term 1
We are also planning ahead for Term 1, with swimming lessons tentatively scheduled from early February through to 26 March. More details on Term 1 will follow closer to the time, but please mark the Term 4 dates in your calendars!



AKO
CURIOUS LEARNERS

Wow writing!

The sun was glimmering in the sky and we were learning about photosynthesis!

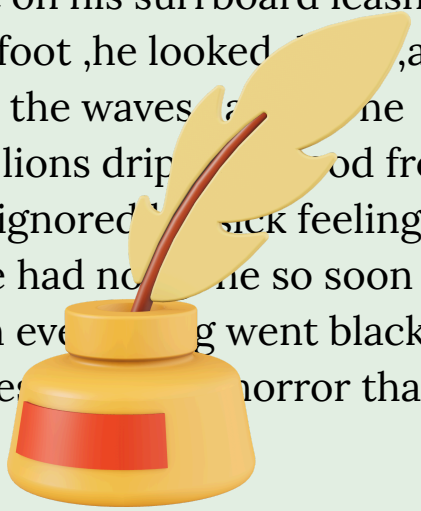
Photosynthesis is created with 4 components: sunlight, water, oxygen and clorophyll. At day time, the plant absorbs carbon dioxide ($C0_2$) through the stomata and then exhales oxygen (O_2). At night time the opposite occurs, plants start to breathe like humans!

The plant can also take energy from the sun to create a sweet, sugary sap. They then turn this sap into elaborated sap which can give them energy!

By Noah Guy-Ab

One day in an underwater kelp forest ,a menace swam slowly through the waving tendrils.As the sea lion hunted through the kelp it wondered where all the animals had gone ? Suddenly a shadow fell over the sea lions head , it looked up and was terrified to see that a shark was chasing it from up closer to the surface! As the shark dived the sea lion swam as fast as it could away from the speeding shark ,but was disgustingly disected by a jutting bit of coral .as blood stained the water a feeding frenzy was activated . As other sharks sped to the scene to feast on the floating ,bleeding ,body as the gut s started rising to the surface and washing to the nearby beach. As Makau got on his surfboard leash in the shallows he felt something bump softly into his left foot ,he looked ,and thew up into the waves.There was a head floating in the waves he thought it was a humans head then he saw it was a sea lions drip od from the part where it had been severed . After a while he ignored ick feelings and went out to join his Dad ,he immediately wished he had no he so soon as he felt a horrible pain in the base of his neck and then eve g went black. Later his Dad looked up to see a head rolling in the wave horror that it was his sons.

By Pi Harrison



End-of-Year School Camps

We have two exciting camps coming up in December to wrap up the school year! Gear lists and further details for both trips will be sent out closer to the time.



1. Year 7 & 8 - Leavers Camp & Whole School Beach Day – Whareakeake

When: Tuesday 8th – Wednesday 9th December

Cost: Free

The Plan: On Tuesday after school, our Year 7 & 8 students will camp overnight at Whareakeake with Mikaela and Sophie to celebrate our three amazing leavers and leaders: Millie (heading to Otago Girls' High School), Lakoda, and Zavia (both heading to East Otago High School). They have been a delight to teach, and we know they will continue to shine at high school! On Wednesday, the rest of the school will join them for hands-on beach science activities and a shared BBQ lunch.

RSVP: Please let us know if you plan on joining the Year 7 & 8's on Tuesday evening.

2. Whole School Overnight Camp – Quarantine Island & Marine Science Centre



When: Monday 14th – Tuesday 15th December

C**ost:** $115 per student (covers boat transfers, accommodation, food, and all EOTC activities). Please reach out to us directly in confidence if you would like support with this cost.

Parent Help Needed: Mikaela and Sarah Wara are accompanying the tamariki, and we need at least one more adult helper (though more are very welcome!). Please let us know as soon as possible if you can join us.





Term 4
Whole School Overnight Camp: Quarantine Island & Marine Science Centre

Monday 14th – Tuesday 15th December

Cost: $115 per student (covers boat transfers, accommodation, food, and all hands-on Education Outside the Classroom activities).

If you would like some support with the cost, please reach out to us directly in confidence.

Parent Volunteer Needed: Mikaela and Sarah Wara will be accompanying the students, but we require one more adult helper to join us (though additional helpers are more than welcome!). If you are keen to join the adventure, please let us know as soon as possible!

Further details and packing lists will be sent out closer to the time.







SAVE THE DATE:
End of Term Assembly & Shared Potluck Dinner
Long Beach Hall
Assembly at 4:15 pm
Thursday 17th December | Dinner at 5:00 PM

Mark your calendars! We are excited to invite all of our whānau and school community to our End of Term celebration and shared potluck dinner.

4:15 PM Start: We will gather together to kick off the evening with a special presentation and student performances celebrating all the hard work and achievements of our tamariki this term. Children are welcome to stay afterschool to help prepare the stage and play.

Shared Potluck Dinner will begin at 5:00 PM: Following the performances, we will come together to share a delicious meal. Please bring a plate of food to share with the community!



Things to do


CHRISTMAS IN THE GARDEN
SAT 5 DEC | 3 - 8PM
DUNEDIN BOTANIC GARDEN
Family fun, live entertainment, games, food trucks and more!


PORT POOL PARTY
COME SUPPORT THE PORT CHALMERS SWIM CLUB
SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 21 ST
12 NOON - 2PM
PORT CHALMERS POOL
MUSIC • SAUSAGE SIZZLE • ICE CREAMS • INFLATABLES • GAMES • RAFFLES • PRIZES
ENTRY BY DONATION
BRING CASH FOR COMPETITIONS AND GAMES
LOVE YOUR LOCAL POOL!


Christmas FESTIVAL
Free
ENTRY & FREE
Face Painting
BBQ · Popcorn
Bouncy Castle
Field Games
Carols · and more
* All Free Except for a few Food Trucks
Be in the draw to win a Christmas Food Hamper
19 December 2026
Kensington Oval, Princes Street
2:00 - 3:15 PM Festival
3:15 - 4:00 PM Christmas Service & Carols


Kids Preloved Summer Sale
A Pop-up Sale for All Things Preloved, Maternity to Teen
Dec 5, 10am-5pm
Dec 6, 9am-1pm *50% off!*
Forrester Park Exhibition Centre
Sausge sizzle & coffee cart onsite!
www. K2Consignment.com
K2Consignments@gmail.com
Visit our Facebook or webpage to learn how to sell & shop preloved

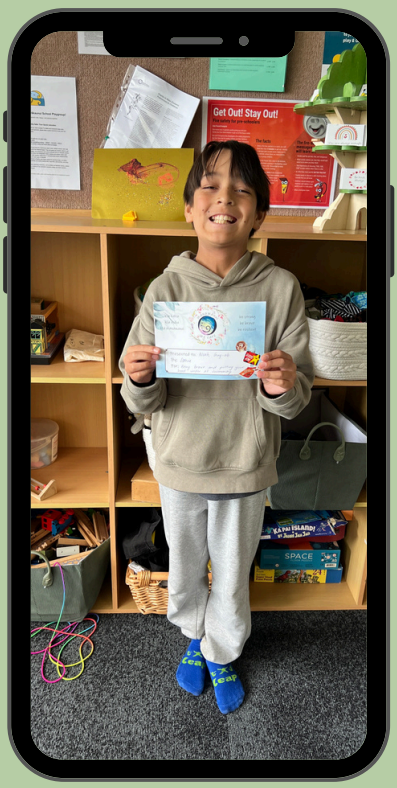
Certificates

Awhi - for having a positive mindset and working hard during assessment time

Noah and Betty - for being brave and putting your heads under water during your swimming lessons. Kia māia!

Hamish - for doing wonderful writing





SCHOOL YARD SCOOP

Kia ora whanau

The past few weeks we have been swimming every Friday and I would like to give a massive thanks to the people who have helped with transport. Also we have been taking turns feeding Sam the lamb who has been visiting each day.

MATHS

During maths we have been playing 5 thousand which is a really fun game. At the moment when we play we have been practising strategy and deciding if we should keep the points or if we should risk it and lose all of our points.

CLASSROOM

The past two weeks we have been doing our PAT and our reading and writing tests. We have done seven tests in the past two weeks. We have also been practising our cursive handwriting. We have been learning how to make our writing more descriptive, you can read Pi and Noah's stories in the newsletter.

LEARNING EXPERIENCE

This week we have been learning how to be more independent and also C3B4ME which means see three classmates before you see the teacher. Also we have been learning dances around the world. Millie, Lakoda and I have been learning how to do line dance . Betty, Bella Micky have been learning a Cook Island dance and Pi , Awhi, Noah and Hamish are learning a Filipino dance.

CONGRATULASTIONS

Lakoda is turning twelve tomorrow so we celebrated today at school and we had some biscoff cake it was yum!

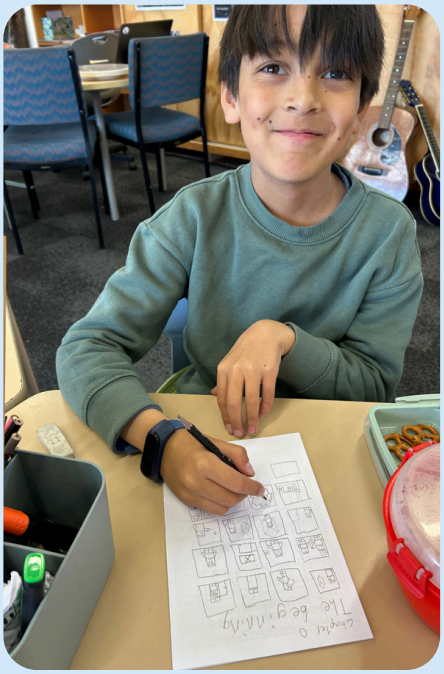
BY ZAVIA ROSS

8-9 Dec Whareakeake overnight Yr 7&8
9 Dec Whareakeake Fun Day
10 Dec HERO reports & meet the teacher afternoon
14 - 15 Dec Quarantine island Camp

Learning opportunities

5000 card game and free writing







Garden to Table - garden fresh risotto & apple and rhubarb crumble





