Friday 6th November 2026 Newsletter

Pūrākaunui School

Growning curious, connected and confident learners

Principal's Message

Kia ora whānau,

Well done everyone who participated at Athletics Day in Palmerston. It was a busy day and all of you showed manawanui and manaakitaka. It was pleasing to see how well behaved our wee kura was while waiting in lines and being rotated around various activities. You were sensible and patient. This is a real credit to you.
You have all been really well behaved at Swimming lessons also, these started last week. Keep up with your good manners!

Reporting & Communication via HERO

This year, we are excited to share that we will be reporting student learning progress, publishing newsletters, and sharing regular learning snippets through HERO. HERO is a secure platform that keeps you right in the loop with your child's growth and everyday school life.

Getting set up on HERO is quick and straightforward!

Please follow these steps to log in:

1. Download the App: Search for "Hero by LINC-ED" in the Apple App Store or Google Play Store, or access it via a web browser at go.linc-ed.com.

2. Enter Your Email: Use the primary email address you provided to the school upon enrolment, then click Next.

3. Select "New User": Click on New User and select Submit to request your password link.

4. Set Your Password: Check your email inbox for a link from HERO. Click the link and follow the prompts to create your password.

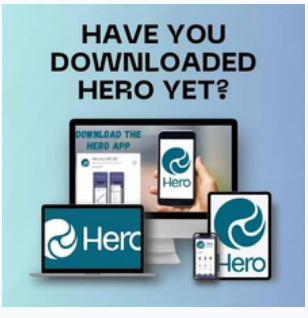
5. Verify & Log In: Enter the 6-digit verification code sent to your email to complete your setup.

Note: If you do not receive the email within a few minutes, please check your spam folder or contact the school office so we can verify that we have your correct email address on file.

We encourage everyone to log in as soon as possible so you don't miss out on important updates, newsletters, or snapshots of your child's learning!

Kā mihi nui,
Mikaela Wilson
Principal





TERM 4 Calendar

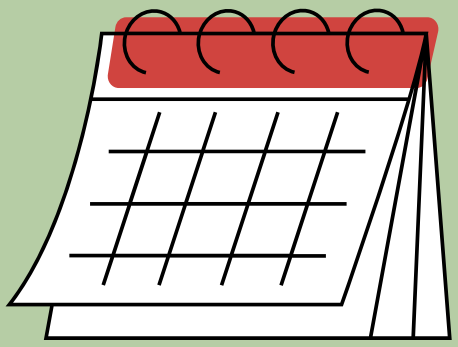
- **Sunday 8th November** Whanau Family Fun Day
  10:00 am -2:00 pm
- **Tuesday 8th -Wednesday 9th December** Overnight Leavers Camp Whareakeake
- **Wednesday 9th December** Beach Day & BBQ Whareakeake whole school
- **14th Monday - 15th Tuesday December** Whole School Overnight Camp & trip to the Marine Science Centre 1
- **17th December Thursday** DAY 2026 Assembly End of Year Performances and Certificates, shared Kai at Long Beach Hall
- **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

Dear Pūrākaunui School Families,
We are getting ready for our upcoming Whānau Fun Day—our main school fundraiser for the year! As a small school community, we rely on everyone coming together to make events like this a success. We are asking every family to please lend a hand to ensure it's a wonderful day for our tamariki and guests.
Here is how you can help:



1. Baking Contributions
We are asking each family to kindly donate one dozen sweet or savoury items that are easy to pop onto a plate for our café.
Examples: Cupcakes, slices, scones, scrolls, bliss balls, etc.
I**mportant:** Please include a clear list of ingredients with your baking to protect community members with food allergies.
Drop-off: Please bring your baking to the school by 9:45 AM.

2. Helpers & Volunteers Needed
To run our activities smoothly, we urgently need volunteers for the following roles:
Raffle Ticket Sellers: Helping us sell raffle tickets throughout the event.
Bouncy Castle Monitoring: Supervising the bouncy castle to keep the kids safe.
Games Organiser: Running fun traditional races like egg-and-spoon, sack races, and wheelbarrow races.
Creative Competitions Setup & Supervision: We are running a Recycled Junk Sculpture Competition and a Coloring-In Competition.

> Mikaela has all the resources ready, but we need helpers to set up the spaces, supervise, and ensure students write their names clearly on their entries.
> We have incredible prizes lined up, including Moana Pool passes and a trip on the Taieri Gorge Railway! We want to encourage the children to do their best work with a bit of guidance.

3. Run Your Own Stall!
If you would like to set up and run your own stall during the event, you are very welcome to! We ask for a $10 contribution towards the school for each stall. Please let us know in advance if you'd like to reserve a space.

4. Spread the Word & Join Us!
Invite your friends, whānau, and neighbors to come along!

Enjoy tea, coffee, and delicious café treats accompanied by beautiful views on the hill.
Our pizza oven will start serving hot pizzas starting at 11:00 AM.
Thank you all so much for your continued support, generosity, and community spirit. Please let us know as soon as possible where you can help out or if you would like to run a stall!
Warm regards,
The School Team

Year 7 & 8 Leavers Special Overnight Camp
& Whole School Beach Day at Whareakeake
Tuesday 8th – Wednesday 9th December

We have an exciting couple of days planned at Whareakeake to celebrate our Year 7 & 8 leavers and bring the whole school together!
This camp is a special opportunity to celebrate three amazing learners and leaders at our school: Millie, Lakoda, and Zavia. They have been an absolute delight to teach, and I know they will carry our school values out into the world and continue to do amazing things at high school next year. Next year, Lakoda and Zavia will be attending East Otago High School, and Millie will be heading to Otago Girls' High School.

Tuesday 8th December – Leavers Overnight Camp:

Our Year 7 & 8 students will head out to the Whareakeake campsite right after school with Mikaela to set up camp for their overnight adventure.

Wednesday 9th December– Whole School Beach Day & BBQ

On Wednesday, the rest of the school will head out to Whareakeake to join our leavers for a fantastic day by the sea. We'll be running hands-on science activities on the beach, followed by a shared BBQ lunch.

Cost: There is no cost associated with this trip.

More details regarding gear lists and timings for Wednesday will be shared closer to the time. Please let us know if you have any questions or if you plan on joining the Year 7 & 8s on Tuesday evening!



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!

Parent and children after dinner dance off!

More details and formal invitations will be sent out closer to the time, but please lock this date into your diaries—we can't wait to celebrate the end of the year with you all!



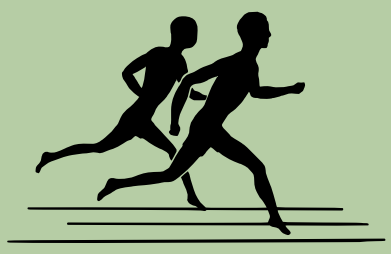
















Certificates

Lakoda Ross - for being able to listen to feedback and self manage in the classroom



SCHOOL YARD SCOOP

Kia ora whānau, hello everybody.
This week we have been getting ready for our Whānau Fun Day, as it is this weekend. There will be fun activities, raffles and some nice kai and drinks, and we hope you have a blast if you are coming.

"PLAYGROUND"
In the playground, we have been playing handball, which is known as four square. It is really simple and easy to learn and play.
We have also been playing all-in tag in the morning before we do our maths.

"MATHS"
During maths, we have been doing basic facts, mental maths and Mathletics booklets. We have been learning with Mrs Penn and Mikaela about measurement and capacity.
We are still trying to remember our times tables off the top of our noggins

"LEARNING EXPERIENCE"
For the past few days, we have had Manu Berry come in and help us during class time, but Manu has been taking Zavia and Millie to do screen printing as well. Zavia, I would like to say thank you to Manu for helping us to do screen printing, and also thank you for helping us with our two new school values to put on the bunting.

"ATHLETICS"
Thank you to all the parents that helped with transport on Athletics day, also thank you to all the adults who helped run some of the activities.
There is some writing down below for you to read.
BY ZAVIA

8-9 Dec Whareakeake overnight Yr 7&8
9 Dec Whareakeake Fun Day
14 - 15 Dec Quarantine island Camp



Athletics

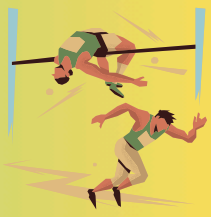


On Tuesday the 3rd of November we went to Athletics Day at East Otago High School in Palmerston.
I was already looking forward to the end of the day!
The drive there didn't take long but it felt like forever. We finally got there only to find out our school has not arrived yet.
I felt proud that I gave everything a try! I had lots of dun and I was really good at discus, sprints and shotput.
I was really hungry for lunch because we didn't have any morning tea. My throat was so dry I fely like I would pass out right then and there.
By Lakoda

On Tuesday the 3rd of November, we went to athletics. The car drive was long, it took about an hour to get to East Otago High School in Palmerston. When we finally got there we were sorted into groups. Luckily me, Micky and Bella were together in the under 11 group.
First we did high jump, it was my least favourite thing along with the 800m race. There were loads of schools from all around.
We also did long jump, discus, hurdles, shot put and sprints. We do athletics once a year because it is good for our health.
By Betty

We went to Athletics on the 3rd of November, it was a sunny day but with a few clouds.
Lakoda and I met the school at East Otago High School. I was not nervous because I had done it before.
There were other schools from the East Coast, there were five other schools they were Waitati, Waikouaiti, Palmerston, Warrington and East Otago High School.
After some of the activities I started to feel a bit peckish. I felt like I had never been fed before because we never had morning tea.
By Zavia





Learning opportunities

Congratulations to Millie who got 2nd in the 80m Sprint and Hurdles at the Three Peaks Athletics!

















Last week was our first swimming session down at Port Pool. We all get split into groups for lessons and then have time to play afterwards!