PUKEATUA 2026 PRESS

20th February, Week 3 , Term 1

Te Panui o te Kura #1

Message from the Principal

Kia ora e te whānau,

Welcome back to 2026! I hope you have all had a refreshing break and some quality time for yourselves – away from work, routines, and for many of you, the busy rhythm of farm life.

What a start to the year for New Zealand sport! The Winter Olympics have been incredible viewing, and Zoi Sadowski-Synnott has achieved something truly special, cementing her place as the greatest Winter Olympic snowboarder of all time. The Black Caps are through to the Super 8 in the T20 World Cup, and the Chiefs have opened their season with a fantastic win over the Blues. Ka mau te wehi! (Outstanding!) Exciting times indeed for Aotearoa sport – and perhaps we'll quietly move past any Wellington Phoenix conversations for now.

I would like to formally thank the families who donated calves to our Stock Scheme this year. Your generosity makes a significant difference to our annual finances. Without your support, many of the opportunities we provide for our students simply would not be possible. I also want to acknowledge those who graze calves on behalf of the school. This is a long-term commitment, often spanning multiple years, but it results in a far greater return for the school. I genuinely appreciate your ongoing support of Pukeatua School.

We have certainly started the year at a sprint. Room 2 has headed off to camp in Waihi and Waihi Beach, which is a fantastic opportunity for growth, independence and whakawhanaungatanga (building relationships). Next week, we will be visiting Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari, grounding our learning in Ko Wai Au? Ko Wai Tātou? (Who am I? Who are we?) while spending time in the ngahere. Ignite Music has begun, and Kapa Haka is back in full swing.

There are some wonderful events coming up. Our Community Picnic is next week – please come along for a swim, a play on the sports equipment, and time together as a community. There will also be a food truck on site for those wanting to purchase dinner.

We also have our Eastern Zone Junior and Senior Swimming Sports, along with our School Triathlon. These events are a great chance for students to showcase their learning and perseverance. Come along to cheer them on! I am also hearing rumours of a "new" team entering the triathlon this year – that should be interesting!

To help make these events successful, I would really appreciate some parent helpers to assist with cooking sausages and selling food during the swimming sports and triathlon. These fundraisers are a great support to our school, and many hands make light work.

Please ensure you are signed up to Hero, our new Student Management System. This will become our primary form of communication. It allows learning updates, notices and messages all in one place.

Finally, I would like to warmly welcome our new families and students to Pukeatua School. We began the year with 14 new enrolments, which is fantastic for our kura. Our new students have settled in well, and I thank our existing students and staff for making them feel so welcome. Manaakitanga (care and hospitality) has been clearly on display. Due to the increase in numbers, I reshuffled our class structure, and I appreciate how positively everyone has responded to this change.

Have a wonderful weekend. and I look forward to seeing you all next week.



Dene Franklin
PRINCIPAL

Attendance Matters ...every school day counts!

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HERO STUDENT MANAGEMENT SERVICE

As you are all aware we changed to the Hero student management service at the beginning of this year. Hopefully everyone has managed to download this free app and can see their child(ren)'s account. If you are still having trouble logging in and/or seeing your details there are a couple of things that you can check to correct this:

1. ensure the email address you log in with is the same email as we have on your records.
2. we could be waiting on your child's previous school to process them as a leaver from their school so they can link to ours.

If you are still having trouble seeing the account please contact the office asap. From Term 2 ALL communication will be going through the Hero App, including this newsletter.

Additionally you can also:

- Let us know if you child is absent and the reason for absence by sending a message through to us via Hero.
- Message the teacher if you have any queries or need to book a time to meet.
- See your account balances
- Update your details directly ie: change of address/phone number etc
- See notices/direct messages from your childs teacher or the school through the community feed and comment on these where necessary.

As with any changes, it takes time to get up and running. By the end of term 1 we hope that ALL our school whanau will be linked to us through Hero. At that time we will stop using Dojo and sending notices through other forms of communication.

If you have yet to download the app, please use the QR code here to download and get started.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR TERM 1

FEBRUARY

20th	House Challenge #1
23rd	Maunga Visit 9am - 2pm
24th	Community Picnic 3pm -5pm
	BOT Meeting
26th	Yr 7&8 Technology
27th	Assembly

MARCH

3rd	Junior Swimming Sports 10am - 2pm
5th	Yr 7&8 Technology
6th	Senior Swimming Sports 10am - 2pm
9th	Bikes to school for triathlon
10th	Bike wise 9am - 12.30pm
12th	Putaruru Inter-School Swimming 9am -2pm
13th	Early Assembly 11am
	School triathlon 12.30pm - 2.30pm
	House Challange #2
20th	Little Heart Day
26th	Yr7&8 Technology
27th	Assembly
31st	Orakau Memorial Day

APRIL

1st	April Foods Day
2nd	Yr7&8 Technology
	House Challenge #3
	END OF TERM 1

20th	START OF TERM 2
24th	We will remember them 1.30pm-2.30pm
25th	ANZAC Day
27th	ANZAC holiday - School Closed

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