PUKEATUA 2026 PRESS

21th September, Week 10, Term 3 Te Panui o te Kura #10

Message from the Principal

Kia ora e te whānau,

It feels a little strange sitting down to write this, knowing that it will be my final newsletter message as Principal of Pukeatua School, and in fact, my final one as a teacher. As I come to the end of this chapter, there is a lot I could write about, but more than anything, I feel incredibly grateful.

Teaching and education have been a part of my life from the day I was born. Both of my parents are teachers, as was my grandfather, and my wife and father-in-law are teachers too. In many ways, education is simply in my blood.

Over the years, I have tried a range of jobs and roles, but I have always found teaching the most rewarding. Working with children, watching them grow in confidence, helping them overcome challenges, and seeing those wonderful "aha" moments when something suddenly clicks is what has always driven me. Few careers give you the privilege of playing even a small part in the growth and development of so many young people.

I still remember my first few days at Pukeatua School, wondering what on earth I had got myself into and, if I am completely truthful, what I was actually meant to be doing! Five years later, I would like to think I have figured a few things out – although there are still plenty of mornings when I arrive at school with absolutely no idea what the day is going to bring. I think that unpredictability is part of what makes working in a school so special.

Pukeatua School will always hold a very special place for me. Over the past five years, I have been fortunate to work alongside an outstanding group of staff, Board members, parents, whānau and, most importantly, some pretty incredible tamariki. I am enormously proud of what we have achieved together and of the school Pukeatua has become.

When I look back, it will not be the buildings, the programmes, the roll numbers or the projects that I remember most. It will be the people and the everyday moments that make a school what it is. The conversations at the gate, camps and sports days, assemblies, classroom moments, staffroom laughs and the difficult days we worked through together.

I will miss the cheeky smiles, the inquisitive questioning, the conversations that somehow head in directions you never expected, and the games of football out on the field. I will miss those little moments when a child surprises you, makes you laugh, or suddenly realises they can do something they once thought they couldn't. Those are the things I will remember.

Moving out of education and into a completely different career path is scary. In fact, it is terrifying. Education is what I know, and it has been a huge part of who I am for my entire life.

But sometimes we have to be prepared to take a risk and try something new in order to grow ourselves. We ask our tamariki to be brave, to step outside their comfort zones, to take on challenges and to learn from new experiences. At some point, we have to be willing to do the same ourselves. For me, that time has come. It is time to take the leap, challenge myself differently, and see where the next chapter takes me.

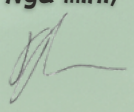
To our tamariki – kia kaha, kia māia, kia manawanui (be strong, be brave, be steadfast). Keep asking questions, keep having a go, look after one another, and never underestimate what you are capable of.

To our staff, Board and whānau, thank you for the trust, support, challenges, laughs and friendship you have given me. Leading this kura has been one of the great privileges of my working life.

Although I am excited about what lies ahead, leaving education after it has been such a significant part of my life is certainly bittersweet. I know I will miss the energy of a school, the unpredictability of each day and, most of all, the tamariki.

Thank you for allowing me to be part of this community and, most importantly, for trusting me to be part of your children's lives and education. It has meant more to me than I could ever properly put into a newsletter.

Ngā mihi,



Dene Franklin
PRINCIPAL


WELCOME TO PUKEATUA SCHOOL'S
SCHOLASTIC
BOOK FAIR
Now Open!
KABOOM!
SCI-FI!
ACTION!
MYSTERY SOLVED!
Welcome
Welcome
ZAP!
Storyland
ACTION ALLEY
SCI-FI CITY
MYSTTERY MANOR
MYSTERY MANOR
COMIC COVE
EXPLORE NEW WORLDS!
SCHOLASTIC
Book Fairs
Open to students and families.

LAST WEEK OF TERM 3!

- Book fair open til Thursday 3.30pm - cash or tap&go (credit or debit cards only) available
- No lunch orders this Friday, due to school finishing early.
- Mr Franklin's final assembly at 11.30am. If you are attending this assembly, you can take your children early afterwards if you wish.
- **School finishes at 1.45pm**
- The bus will run earlier at 1.45pm also

GETTING READY FOR AG DAY!

Dont forget to return last years trophies!

WEDNESDAY 14TH OCTOBER

RULES!

A quick reminder of some Ag Day Rules:

- Competitors should train their animals to lead only with a reasonable amount of instruction
- TB Cards and Tags calves will be required
- Clipping or trimming is not permitted. Oiling of calf's hair or washing of lamb's wool is not permitted. Substitution of animals in cases of death or illness will be made only with consent of Principal
- Inspection of animals for lice to be regarded as a necessary part of preparation.

THE JUDGES DECISION IS FINAL

- Entries for Group Day will be taken at Ag Day - Group Day date is Wednesday 21st October



Kiwi Lunchbox

Feeling the pinch on groceries? https://www.kiwilunchbox.co.nz is a free tool built by an Auckland parent. It plans a week of school lunches around whatever is on special at Woolworths and New World, shows what the week will cost, and gives you a prep plan. No account needed, nothing for sale.



Parents, help your child read and write with confidence

Word Whizz makes it easy for Kiwi parents to boost their child's early literacy skills, helping them catch up or excel in reading and spelling.

Free Workshop - wordwhizz.co.nz

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HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

at St John's Church Hall

George St , Te Awamutu - opposite the Warehouse Carpark

Tuesday 29th September
Wednesday 30th September

5 to 12 year olds **10am to 2pm**

Cost:
$5 per child
$20 maximum per family.

Registration starts at 9.45am

Please bring a healthy morning tea and lunch with a bottle of water.

The theme this time is SPRING

PLEASE REGISTER WITH OUR OFFICE (871 5568) \ stjohns.awa@xtra.co.nz

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Cartoons & Crafty Kids

— WORKSHOPS —



Sunday 4 October

10am–12.30pm • Arapuni Hall

Design your own superhero!
Build your own 3D character!
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FREE Ages 7+

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creative communities nz

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Txt 027 4803 106

Spring School Holiday Art Club



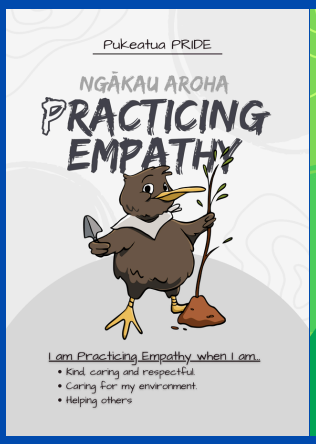
Week 1: Wed, Thurs & Friday
Sept 30th, Oct 1st & 2nd
Week 2 : October 6th, 7th & 8th
Session times: 10:30am - 12:30

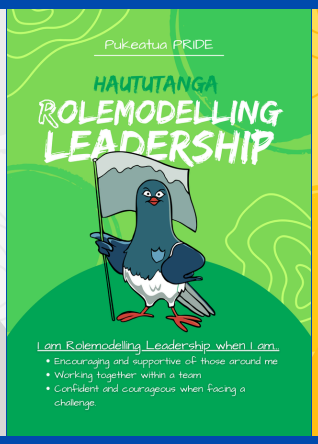
Cost: $20 per session per child (6 yr olds +)

Special Offer- $50 for 3 prebooked sessions pp

(All materials included.)

Please Note: TERM 4 enrolments are now open for Tuesday & Wednesday sessions 4-6pm For children 7 years plus











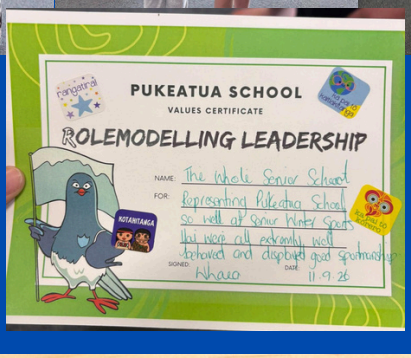












IMPORTANT DATES FOR TERM 3/4

SEPTEMBER

21st	Book Fair - 21st to 24th
22nd	Potato in a bucket (R2, 3, 4)
	Board Meeting
23rd	Potato in a bucket (R1, 3, 4)
	Special Persons Day
24th	Yr7&8 Technology
25th	Teachers v Students - Netball
	Mr Franklin's last day at school
	Assembly 11.30am
	Early finish at 1.45pm
	END OF TERM 3

OCTOBER

12th	START OF TERM 4
	Welcome Mr Lunjevich
14th	Ag Day 9 - 2.30pm
16th	House Challenge
21st	Group Day 9 - 2.30pm
22nd	Yr7&8 Technology
23rd	Eastern Zone Touch - 9-3pm
26th	Labour Day - School Closed
27th	Board Meeting

NOVEMBER

3rd	Maunga Day 9-2pm
5th	Yr7&8 Technology
6th	Gumboot Friday
	Assembly R2
13th	Wheels Day
	House Challenge
19th	Eastern Zone Athletics Day
25th	Teachers vs Students - Touch
26th	Parent Helper Afternoon Tea
27th	House Challenge

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