# Mangatawhiri School Newsletter 2026

***Responsibility ~ Haepapa, Respect ~ Whakaute, Resilience ~ Aumangea It's the Mangatawhiri Way***
***"In life, we learn, in school, we nurture the spirit for life" STRIVE ON***

9th November 2026
Dear Parents, Whanau & Community,
Kia Ora Koutou Katoa,

Welcome to week 5 – the end is coming faster and faster! The teaching staff are completing end of year assessments and recording results ready for preparing end of year reports, as well as organising all the usual end of year events!



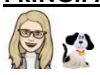

We have **Fergus Farnum** join room 1. He is the little brother of Freya and has been super keen to start school for a while now!

There is a lot of information in this week's newsletter, I hope you take the time to read through it. I noticed that in some of our parent feedback, some parents made comments regarding not knowing about things happening at school, yet these were clearly communicated in our weekly newsletter. It is a key piece of communication, and worth taking a few minutes to note all the information shared.

It was a big week last week with ERO in school. So lovely to hear about all the great things they could see happening in and around our school, including some great musicians! Our Xmas concert on the field is going to be super-duper, as always!

Happy reading.

**Sharron Scouse**
**PRINCIPAL**






- ☺ **Annie Bruce, Nana Lynn & Adele Briggs ~** Yummy staff morning teas, just when we needed them!
- ☺ **Vennell Family ~** The biggest & yummiest advocados for staff!
- ☺ **Parents & Grandparents ~** Attending our Friday assembly
- ☺ **Mitre 10 Pukekohe ~** Donation of new drumming buckets for music and the reduced cost to purchasing some
- ☺ **Jenna Leenen, Helen Clotworthy & the Election Team ~** Wonderful to hear all the compliments about how awesome our school looks. Some community members reminisced about being students here and Jenna meet some new families in our community with children to come to our school. Mr Bruce, you work does not go unnoticed

EDUCATION REVIEW OFFICE
Te Tari Arotake Mātauranga

Last week we welcomed the Education Review Office (ERO) to Mangatawhiri School for our external review. We are pleased to share that the week went really well, and it was a wonderful opportunity to showcase our school, our people and the great things happening here every day.

ERO identified many positives about Mangatawhiri School, including our dedicated and committed staff, the quality of teaching and learning, our fantastic children, the supportive governance role of our Board, engaged whanau and the positive environment and culture we have created together. We are incredibly proud of these things, and it was great to have them recognised.

As part of the review, ERO also looked closely at our student achievement data. We need to be open with our community that some of our achievement results are currently below where we would like them to be. This will be reflected in the final report.
However, we also have a clear understanding of the factors contributing to this. We are working through significant changes to the curriculum, with new achievement benchmarks, expectations and assessment tools. This has made comparisons with previous data more challenging. We also anticipated that our boys' writing results would be an area of particular concern, and this was reflected in the data. We are committed to using the information we have to identify where our children need support and to keep moving forward. We are very aware that schools across New Zealand have been faced with the very same challenges.

Another area highlighted by ERO was student attendance. While we have many children who attend school regularly, there is room for improvement in the consistency of student attendance. Getting children to school every day is a shared responsibility, and we need our families to play their part. Every day of learning matters, and regular attendance makes a real difference to children's progress, achievement and sense of belonging. We ask all families to make getting their children to school every day a priority, unless they are genuinely unwell.

We are proud of Mangatawhiri School and the many wonderful things that make it such a special place. We are grateful for our staff, our students and our supportive community. We remain committed to doing the very best we can for every child.
**Thank you for your ongoing support. Together, we can continue to make Mangatawhiri School the very best it can be.**
**My thanks to Sharron, Laura, Tracey S, Ellie, Dax, Dave & Shiva for involving yourselves in this process.**

***Melissa van den Brink***
**Presiding Member**
**School Board**


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## NOVEMBER BOARD REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



Thank you to **Laura Biggelaar** for hosting the meeting & sharing about Room 9

- Congratulations to the Calf Club Team for such a wonderful day. It is a highlight of our school year. Thank you to all our sponsors and people who purchased auctions.
- Teaching staff are underway with end of year assessment in readiness for end of year reportng to families
- School Docs Term 4 Policy Review
- Families are welcome ot comment on the School Docs Website
  - Curriculum and Student Achievement Policy (board)
  - Reporting about Student Progress and Achievement (board)
  - Learning Support (board)
  - Māori Educational Achievement
  - Health Curriculum (board)
  - Privacy Policy (board)
- 2027 MoE funding allows for 7 ½ classrooms. The Board has committed funding of 2 days a week to make this 8 classes
- MoE has approved 2 Staff Only days in 2027 for curriculium professional development
- 2027 School Dates confirmed (See later in newsletter)
- Board is still awaiting closure of our current school property project
- School Pool will be available to the communty over the summer season once a caretaker roster has been established
- Our next meeting: Monday 7th December 5.30 pm School Community Evening in Room 3 – All welcome

***Melissa van den Brink***
***Presiding Member***






☺ ***River Philcox & Skye Dizon*** *Assembly MCs*
☺ ***Room 4*** *~ Hosting Assembly & sharing your Maori greetings & feelings posters*

## STAR STUDENTS' WEEK 4:



***Room 1: Hudson Irwin***
~ Trying hard & making green choices
***Room 4: Beauden Briggs***
~ Making pleasing progress across all learning areas
***Room 5: Aaliyah Jack***
~ Always trying your best
***Room 7: Piper Campbell***
~ Outstanding determination, progress & achievement in your learning this week
***Room 6: Tristan Birkett***
~ Amazing writing
***Room 8: Talan van den Brink***
~ Outstanding progress in reading
***Room 9: Leighton Mitchell***
~ Engagement &drive in maths
***Mrs Irwin: Martina Rosas***
~ Outstanding resilience in writing
***Miss Shearer: Miller Campbell***
~ Maths whizz & overall great student
***Mrs Bush: Adriu Bilo***
~ Amazing descriptive writing
***Mrs West: Myah Munyard***
~ Showing the Mangatawhiri value of respect by including classmates & making them feel welcomed

## SCHOOL AWARDS WEEK 4:



***Class Award: Room 1 & Mrs Irwin***
~ Writing fantastic letters to Mitre 10 for drumming buckets
***Learning Award: Riley Shearer & Peyton de Jongh***
~ Phenomenal writing
***Sport Award: East Group Athletics Team***
~ Fantastic sportsmanship & results
***Staff Award: Laura Biggelaar & Tracey Schu***
~ Great work with Miss Scouse &the ERO team
***Parent Award: Melissa van den Brink***
~ Being a proud presiding member of the school board & working alongside our school for the ERO review
***Mangatawhiri Way: Emily, Aleah, Lexi, Luke, Jesse, Lily, Billie & Brooklyn***
~ Great representation of our school with ERO
***Piano Award: Livvy McKinstry***
~ Great start to learning music
***Piano Award: Brook McKinstry***
~ Great theory learning music
***Clean Class: Room: 5***

## BEST BUS PEOPLE



***Eva Parata, Maddy Falkner, Juniper Kira-Lupeiki, Penny Green, Molly Green, David Nelson, Martina Rosas***

## HOUSE PEOPLE WEEK 4:



**KAURI:**
***Selected by Billie Devlin & Brooklyn Black***
**Willow Vennell** ~ Doing an amazing job at East Group Athletics
**Phoenix Anderson** ~ Always having a positive attitude

**MANUKA:**
***Selected by Lily Caird & Jesse Stanton***
**Ariah Talman** ~ Trying your best at East Group Athletics
**Ariel Stanton** ~ Doing your best in everythng you do

## RIMU:

*Selected by Lexi Geaney & Luke Bilo*

**Harry Abernethy** ~ Doing your duties really well this week

**Darcy Green** ~ Showing respect to others & teachers

## TANEKAHA:

*Selected by Emily McHardy & Aleah van den Brink*

**Jordy Nixon** ~ Amazing effort at East Group Athletics

## HOUSE POINTS:

### WEEK 4

1st Manuka ~ 270 points 2nd Tanekaha ~ 260 points

3rd Kauri ~ 240 points 4th Rimu ~ 200 points

### TERM 4

1st Rimu ~ 1,490 points. 2nd Manuka ~ 1,470 points

3rd Tanekaha ~ 1,320 points 4th Kauri ~ 1,310 points

## MANGATAWHIRI WAY CERTIFICATES

10 Vouchers: **Adriu Bilo**



75 Vouchers: **Flynn Gowdy**



125 Vouchers: **Leighton Mitchell**



150 Vouchers: **Jackson Bullivant**



Hall of FAME

175 Vouchers: **Violet Lucioni**







100 Vouchers:

**Ryan McHardy** **Jade de Jonge**

## MANGATAWHIRI WAY

### WEEK 4

1st Kauri ~ 330 points 2nd Rimu ~ 290 points

3rd Tanekaha ~ 230 points 4th Manuka ~ 190 points

### TERM 4

1st Rimu ~ 1,180 points 2nd Kauri ~ 1,030 points

3rd Tanekaha ~ 1,010 points 4th Manuka ~ 900 points

## CALF CLUB CERTIFICATES



## ROOM 1



## ROOM 3



## ROOM 5



## ROOM 7



## ROOM 6



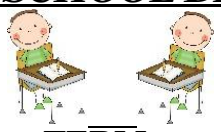
## ROOM 8



## ROOM 9



## 2027 SCHOOL DATES



### TERM 1:

**Tuesday 2nd February ~ Friday 9th April**

Auckland Anniversary Holiday ~ Monday 1st February
Waitangi Holiday ~ Monday 8th February
Easter Good Friday ~ Friday 26th March
Easter Monday ~ Monday 29th March
Easter Tuesday ~ Tuesday 30th March

### TERM 2:

**Tuesday 27th April ~ Friday 2nd July**

ANZAC Holiday ~ Monday 26th April
King's Birthday Holiday ~ Monday 7th June
Matariki Holiday ~ Friday 25th June

### TERM 3:

**Monday 19th July ~ Friday 24th September**

### TERM 4:

**Monday 11th October ~ Wednesday 15th December**

Labour Day Holiday ~ Monday 25th October

## FRIDAY LUNCH THIS WEEK

**Term 4 Sushi Lunches!**

Register and Order at www.dollarforschools.co.nz

**Friday November 13th**



**Ice Blocks on Sale every lunchtime 50c**

## SCHOOL END OF YEAR TROPHIES 2025

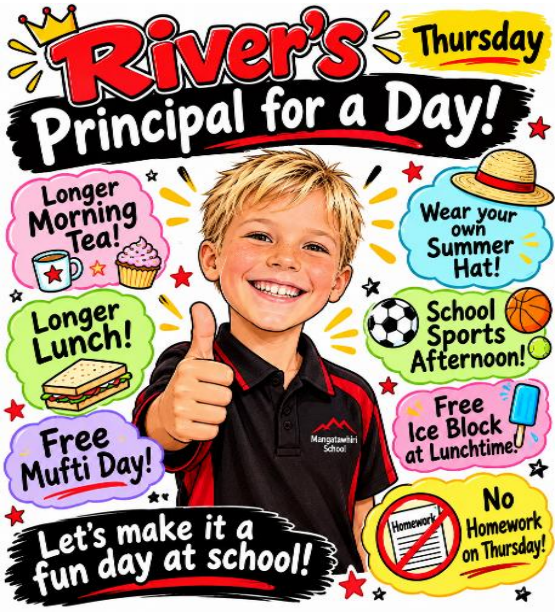
If your child received a trophy at our 2025 Prize giving, please return it to Susan. They do not need to be cleaned.

## REPORTING TO PARENTS

**Monday 7th December 3pm**
End of Year Reports go live
**Tuesday 8th December 3-5 pm**
Parent & Teacher Conferences if required

## Principal for a Day

**River Philcox** won the silent auction at Calf Club Day for 'Principal for a Day'. He has a busy day planned for Thursday along with some great rewards for EVERYONE in the school!




## POOL

**Jay Dee Ezekiela** has been working on our pool to get it ready for summer use! **Allan Bruce**, will water blast the changing sheds this week so we can begin using the pool from next Monday, 16th November.
As soon as we have parents on board to help with pool care over the summer, we will then sell pool keys to the community. Bring on the great weather!

## PLANNING FOR SUMMER

We need help with our school pool

For the pool to be available to the community to use after school, on weekends and during the summer holidays, we require parents/community members to take responisbility for a week of two during the summer season.
This involves: opening & closing the pool area/ recording readings/ cleaning filter baskets/ checking for rubbish/ cleaning the pool toliet
**Please let Susan know if you could help over the summer**

| | |
|---|---|
| Nov: 30th – Dec 6th | Dec: 7th - 13th |
| Dec: 14th – 20th | Dec: 21st – 27th |
| Dec: 28th – Jan 3rd | Jan: 4th – 10th |
| Jan: 11th – 17th | Jan: 18th – 24th |
| Jan: 25th – 31st | Feb: 1st – 7th |
| Feb: 8th – 14th | Feb: 15th – 21st |
| Feb: 22nd – 28th | Mar: 1st – 7th |
| Mar: 8th – 14th | Mar: 15th – 21st |
| Mar: 22nd – 28th | |




## EVENT SPOTLIGHT

## EAST GROUP ATHLETICS

There was plenty of excitement, energy and determination last Tuesday as our students took to the track and field at Navigation Homes Stadium in Pukekohe for East Group Athletics. It was a fantastic day, with some outstanding results to celebrate. Our Mangatawhiri team were amazing, giving everything a go, trying their very best and showing great sportsmanship throughout the day. A big thank you to all our wonderful parent helpers for their support on the day. 21 od our students have qualified for Franklin Athletics next week. Well done Team

















***Hayley Vujcich***

# School Calendar!

## NOVEMBER

***Week 5***

**Monday 9th November**
- School Newsletter
- Jane Jeffs Piano lessons
- Chess Club
- Garden Club

**Tuesday 10th November**
- Mr Green Music
- Art Club
- R1&4 Special Fire Visitors

**Wednesday 11th November**
- Jane Jeffs Piano lesson

**Thursday 12th November**
- River Philcox – Principal for the Day
- Mufti Day – See the poster
- Sean Oasen Guitar lessons
- Chess tournament

**Friday 13th November**
- Y7&8 Technology
- Fun Day Friday – Favourite Summer T-Shirt
- 1.55 pm R5 Assembly

***Week 6***

**Monday 16th November**
- School Newsletter
- Jane Jeffs Piano lessons
- Franklin Zone Athletics

**Tuesday 17th November**
- Mr Green Music

**Wednesday 18th November**
- East Group Y1&2 Tabloids @ Kaiaua School
- Jane Jeffs Piano lessons
- Rope Cope Presentation @ Mangatangi Hall

**Thursday 19th November**
- Sean Oasen Guitar lessons

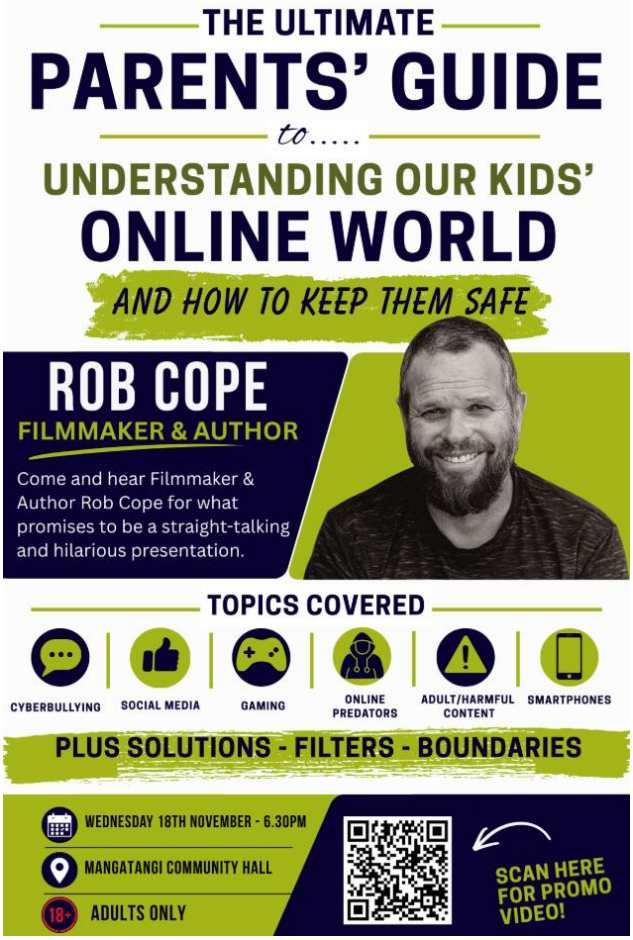
**Friday 20th November**
- Senior Gala Day
- Fun Day Friday
- 1.50 pm School Assembly



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| | |
|---|---|
| ***Week 7***<br>**Monday 23rd November**<br>School Newsletter<br>Jane Jeffs Piano lessons | **Tuesday 24th November**<br>Mr Green Music |
| **Wednesday 25th November**<br>Jane Jeffs Piano lessons<br>East Group Y3&4 Tabloids here | **Thursday 26th November**<br>Sean Oasen Guitar lessons |
| **Friday 27th November**<br>Y7&8 Technology<br>Junior Gala day<br>School Library Closes for 2026<br>NO Assembly | ***Week 8***<br>**Monday 30th November**<br>School Newsletter<br>Jane Jeffs Piano lessons<br>Y8 Diplomas due |
| DECEMBER | **Tuesday 1st December**<br>Mr Green Music |
| **Wednesday 2nd December**<br>Y8 Rainbows End Celebration Day<br>Jane Jeffs Piano lessons | **Thursday 3rd December**<br>Sean Oasen Guitar lessons |
| **Friday 4th December**<br>Fun Day Friday – Dress as your favourite Year 8!<br>1.50pm School Assembly<br>Y8 Graduation Dinner | ***Week 9***<br>**Monday 7th December**<br>School Newsletter<br>Jane Jeffs Piano lessons<br>3 pm End of Year Reports Go Live on HERO<br>5.30 pm School Community Mtg |
| **Tuesday 8th December**<br>Parent / Teacher Conferences | **Wednesday 9th December**<br>HPC Discovery Day<br>Jane Jeffs Piano lessons |
| **Thursday 10th December**<br>Sean Oasen Guitar lessons | **Friday 11th December**<br>Mr Green Music<br>5.30 pm Xmas on the Field |
| ***Week 10***<br>**Monday 14th December**<br>School Newsletter<br>Jane Jeffs Piano lessons<br>1 pm Term 4 Final assembly<br>6 pm Prize giving | **Tuesday 15th December**<br>Prize giving Newsletter<br>12 pm School ends for 2026 |
| 2027 | |
| JANUARY | **Wednesday 27th January**<br>Staff ONLY Day<br>School Office Open |
| **Thursday 28th January**<br>Staff ONLY Day<br>School Office Open | FEBRUARY |
| **Monday 1st February**<br>Auckland Anniversary Day Holiday | ***Week 1***<br>**Tuesday 2nd February**<br>8.30 am School Starts 2027 |




**His talk will cover:**

**Cyberbullying** - How bullies can reach our kids 24/7

**Social media** - How social media is affecting the mental health in 3 out of 5 children. FOMO, depression, anxiety

**Gaming and the developing brain** – An oversupply of dopamine leading to dopamine deficiency, synaptic pruning, and the underdevelopment of social skills and empathy

**Naked Selfies** - The pressure to send nudes from intermediate up through high school

**Online predators** - The methods they use, how to spot them

**Online porn vs healthy sexuality** - How consuming online pornography as a child or teen can create a sexual template where violence, aggression, and dominance are seen as normal and consent can become very blurry.

**AI** - Growing concerns around Companion bots, Deep fakes, Voice Cloning, Algorithmic Radicalisation

**Solutions**

**Filters** - Which filters are best and how to install them

**Smartphones** - How to lock down a smartphone to make it a safe phone

**Boundaries** - How to put good boundaries in place around device use

**3 golden rules** - The 3 golden rules that will keep your kid's safe

**Talking to your kids** - How to have difficult conversations with your kids

**Challenging our own phone and device usage** - Reconnecting as a family.