

Kia ora e te whānau o Kahurangi,

Every now and then our kaiako are asked about homework and why we don't send it home. It's not because we don't value learning outside the classroom. Actually, it's almost the opposite.

From 8.50am until 3pm, our tamariki spend much of their day focused on school learning. We want to make good use of those hours, then leave space for a different kind of learning once they head home.

So much valuable learning happens naturally through everyday life. Cooking puts reading, measuring and fractions into practice. Building something requires planning and problem-solving. Playing sport develops teamwork, perseverance and commitment. Clubs, music, art and cultural activities give tamariki opportunities to discover interests and develop skills we simply don't have time to provide at school.

And then there are the things you can teach them. Our whānau have an enormous range of skills, knowledge, cultures and life experiences. Gardening, fixing things, sewing, fishing, cooking a family recipe, speaking another language, understanding your culture and whakapapa, or changing a tyre. There are all sorts of valuable things you know how to do that we don't!

Sometimes it's even simpler. A good conversation in the car, playing a board game, reading for pleasure or having time for imaginative play all help children connect what they learn at kura with the real world.

That doesn't mean school learning should never come home. In our reports, we share ideas for how you might support reading, writing and maths. These aren't things to work through every night, but suggestions to dip into occasionally. A kaiako might also suggest something particular for your tamaiti to practise.

The one thing we'll always encourage is regular reading. We'd love tamariki to read, or be read to, most days, but this doesn't even need to feel like homework. Taking a book to bed or reading together on the couch can be a quieter, less pressured part of the day.

Homework will become part of life when our tamariki reach college. Rather than worrying they won't be used to it, we hope

they'll arrive ready for the challenge, rather than already tired of it.

Generally, when tamariki leave at 3pm, we're comfortable letting schoolwork finish for the day. We know plenty of valuable learning happens after 3pm. It just doesn't need to look like more schoolwork.

Ngā mihi nui, Kyran Smith, Principal



Two boys,
same name!

noticeboard



Tues 18 Aug

School Photo Day

Please make sure your tamariki arrive on time as we don't want them to miss out on being photographed!

Thurs 20 Aug

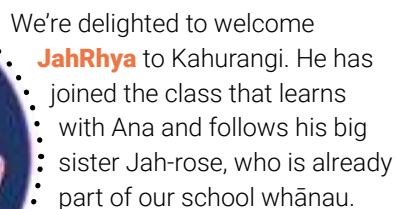
Book Character Day

Children are encouraged to come dressed up as a book character (if they can).

See page 4 for more details.



For further dates and events please check 'What's coming up' at the back page of this newsletter.



A new junior playground... now the hard work begins!

We've known for a while that our junior playground is reaching the end of its life. After around 30 years of tamariki playing on it, it's looking pretty tired, and we've already had to decommission some parts because of wear and tear. So, we've made the exciting decision that it's time to work towards replacing it!

The Board has been looking at some initial designs and costings, and we now have a clearer idea of what a great new playground for our younger tamariki could look like. The not-so-exciting part? We're looking at a cost of around \$70,000 and, to be totally honest, we don't have that sort of money sitting around!

Our tamariki will get to have some input too. We already have a basic design in mind, but we'll be asking them about some of the features they'd most like to see included.

Then the real mahi begins. We'll be applying for grants, exploring funding opportunities and looking at other ways to raise the pūtea. Our hope is that we can fund the majority of the playground through grants and external support.

And this is where our wider Kahurangi whānau might be able to help. If you know of a business that might like to support the project, know of a funding opportunity we should explore, we'd love to hear from you.

There's still a long way to go and plenty of money to find before a new playground becomes a reality. But we've taken the first step, and now the challenge is to make it happen.

More baby news!

A huge congratulations to Anna who has welcomed her beautiful baby boy, Arlo.



As our tamariki get older, their swimming programme begins to shift from learning strokes and building confidence in the pool to developing practical water survival skills.

Our senior ākonga learn what to do if they ever find themselves in trouble around water. This includes correctly fitting and using life jackets, entering the water safely while wearing one, the HELP and huddle positions for keeping warm, survival backstroke and rescue techniques. They also explore boat and kayak safety, including capsizing, getting back into a kayak, rafting together and using throw bags for rescue.

It's practical learning that we hope they'll never need in an emergency, but these are pretty important skills for tamariki growing up surrounded by water here in Aotearoa.



An incredibly generous gift

We're incredibly grateful to a couple with connections to Kahurangi who have made a very generous \$10,000 donation to fully cover the cost of swimming lessons and bus travel for our junior tamariki.

For many years, our juniors went swimming every year. More recently, we've had to move to every second year, largely because the cost of buses has almost tripled, making the overall programme increasingly difficult for us to afford.

Our donors, who have asked to remain anonymous, have generously offered to cover this cost each year, meaning our junior tamariki will once again be able to have swimming lessons annually.

Unfortunately, we weren't able to secure pool space for this year, so this first \$10,000 donation will be set aside specifically for junior swimming next year.

This is an incredibly generous gift to our kura. Swimming is such an important life skill, and knowing our youngest tamariki will now have this opportunity every year is pretty special.

More generosity we're grateful for

We've also been fortunate to receive a number of other donations from whānau and people connected to Kahurangi. Some have supported us regularly over many years, while others have given unexpectedly or quietly contributed a little extra towards things like sports fees so another tamaiti can take part.

We're sharing this not because these contributions are expected, but because it simply doesn't feel right not to acknowledge such generosity. Every contribution is genuinely appreciated and helps us provide a little more for our tamariki.

Alongside these donations, we've been successful with two grants this year. Our annual Wellington City Council recycling grant provided \$863.57, and a \$2,000 PwC grant to help us purchase learning resources.

None of this support is taken for granted. Whether it's \$250, \$2,000 or considerably more, it all helps us stretch our school funding further and provide more for our tamariki.



A quick nit check

Unfortunately, we've had a few reports of head lice (nits/kutis) doing the rounds, so now would be a good time to check your tamariki's hair.



Head lice spread easily among tamariki, so a quick check and treatment if needed can help stop them being passed around.

If you need a nit comb or treatment solution, please pop into the office as we can give you some for free.



Why do we sometimes spread a class?

You may have heard your tamaiti mention that their class was 'spread' for the day recently, so I thought it might be helpful to explain what this means and why it happens.

When a kaiako is away and we're unable to find a relief teacher, rather than asking a whole class to stay home, we spread the tamariki across other classes for the day.

For many children, this is actually a bit of a novelty and they quite enjoy spending the day somewhere different! We also know that for some tamariki it can feel a little unsettling. We keep this in mind and always send children with others from their class and where we can, place them with a kaiako or class we know they'll feel comfortable with.

It's not something we do lightly, and we know it puts extra pressure on everyone. I'm incredibly appreciative of our teachers who welcome additional tamariki into their classrooms, often at short notice. When someone is away, our staff also quietly pick up extra duties and responsibilities throughout the day to make sure everything keeps ticking along.

It really is a team effort, and I'm very grateful for the way our Kahurangi team makes it work.

Catching some Saturday netball



I made it along to Saturday netball recently to watch our Kahurangi Kākāpō and Kahurangi Kea in action. It was great seeing our tamariki out on court, giving things a go, working together and clearly enjoying being part of their teams.

What I also loved was seeing the support around them. Coaches guiding from the sideline, whānau cheering them on and plenty of encouragement between teammates.



What's coming up

Tuesday 18 August

School Photo Day

Information about School Photo Day was sent home via email. Every child, along with sibling groups, will have their photo taken on the day.

A few weeks later, you'll be able to view the photos online and order any you'd like to purchase.

Robotics Class

For the children that learn
with Kaitlyn.

Thursday 20 August

Book Character Day

For selected tamariki.

and

Whānau Māori Gathering

5-6:30pm

Invitation emails have been sent home.

Tuesday 25 August

Robotics Class

For the Year 5 children
that learn with Anika and
Brynne.

Friday 28 August

School Assembly

Hosted by the class that learn
with Ana

2:15pm in Broadway

Whānau are always welcome!

Wednesday 2 September

Royal NZ Ballet sessions

For selected tamariki.

Monday 7 September

Y1-6 Futsal Tournament

More detail will be sent home
with keen tamariki soon.

Tuesday 8 September

Year 7-8 Futsal Tournament

More detail will be sent home
with keen tamariki soon.