



Newsletter #2  
28 February 2025

**Kahurangi**  
SCHOOL

**Kia ora e te whānau,**

**Later this afternoon, we will be announcing our 2025 House Leaders. Before this time, I want to acknowledge the 29 brave Year 7-8 students who put themselves forward for these roles.**

Applying to be a House Leader is no small thing—it takes courage to step up, put yourself out there, and show a willingness to lead. Many of our rangatahi (young people) shared how they had desired this role since they were little or how they've wanted to follow in the footsteps of their older siblings, showing just how important this position is to them and the mana that comes with it. The kaiako and I were impressed by the honesty in the applications. Many recognised that leadership comes with challenges, such as speaking at their Waka Hui and being a role model for others. Some even bravely acknowledged that in previous years, they may not have always set the best example in the playground or in the way they showed respect to teachers, but how they wanted to be different this year and expressed their commitment to making positive changes, whether or not they were selected.

With 29 applicants and only eight positions—two leaders for each house—we know that today's announcement will bring both excitement and disappointment for our young people. For those who aren't chosen this time, we know the disappointment will be hard to shake. Which is natural to feel that way when you put your heart into something. This is why we intentionally share the announcement on a Friday afternoon—to give our tamariki the weekend to process their emotions and move past this immediate feeling of loss.

We also recognise that whānau will feel the disappointment too. As parents and caregivers, you see exactly how wonderful your child is, and it's hard to watch them miss out on something they really wanted. We want to acknowledge the role you'll play in supporting them through this—thank you. We know you'll be carrying a lot of the emotional load, and we want you to know we're here too. Our kaiako and staff will continue to encourage and uplift them next week and beyond.

And remember, not being named a House Leader today doesn't mean their leadership journey ends here. There will be many opportunities throughout the year to step up—whether it's supporting younger students, leading a school event, representing their house in competitions, or showing kindness and responsibility in their everyday actions. Leadership isn't just about a title; it's about how you show up for others. Ka mau te wehi—what an inspiring group of rangatahi!

**Kyran Smith - Tumauki**



**Breakfast Club is a great way to start the school day!**

## noticeboard



### Mon 3 Feb

#### **Movin'March starts**

See page 2 for more details.

### Wed 5 Mar

#### **Eastern Zone Cricket Tournament**

Children involved will have already brought home a notice.

### Fri 7 March

#### **School Assembly**

Hosted by Waka Pūhara Tahī  
2:15pm in Broadway (our hall)

#### **Keep informed**

See the full list of key dates on the last page.



Since our last newsletter we've had one new pupil start with us.

Welcome to **Sahal** who is the brother of Zakariye and Jamal.

*Sahal we hope you are enjoying school and being a big school kid!*

## Strengthening Literacy Learning at Kahurangi

Over the past two days, our kaiako have taken part in **Structured Literacy** training—an evidence-based approach to teaching reading and writing. This learning helps us better understand how tamariki develop literacy skills and the most effective strategies to support them. Key areas covered included:

- ☑ How memory and learning work to make knowledge "stick"
- ☑ The importance of explicit instruction—breaking skills into clear, manageable steps
- ☑ Key principles of Structured Literacy to build strong foundations for all learners

On page 3, you'll see that some of our tamariki's achievement results have declined over the last couple of years which is a serious concern for us. While our kaiako and ākonga are working hard, teaching and learning is complex, and many factors influence tamariki's progress. Like most kura across Aotearoa, we face challenges to get on top of this, but we (along with the government) are committed to doing everything we can to turn this around for our tamariki.

These Teacher Only Days were just the start—our kaiako will continue this learning with another full-day course over the next two weeks (covered by relievers) and fortnightly PLD sessions to embed these practices. We share this so you know our investment in this learning goes beyond Teacher Only Days.

## Term 1 - Learning Topics

Here's what our tamariki will be exploring this term:

### SENIOR SCHOOL



Writing – Explanations



Reading – Decoding & comprehension



Maths – Place value, addition, subtraction, multiplication & division



Topic – Tō Tātou Tūrangawaewae – Our Place and Belonging



Visual Art - Connected to the topic



PE – Cricket



Te Reo Māori – Ko Au? (Who am I?)

### JUNIOR SCHOOL



Writing – Explanations & recounts



Maths – Developing Number Sense: Understanding Numbers & Their Relationships



Topic – Tūrangawaewae me te Kaitiakitanga – Caring for our place & living things



Visual art



PE – Large ball skills



Te Reo Māori – Ko wai au? (Who are you?)

## MOVIN'MARCH STARTS THIS MONDAY!

We're excited to be part of Movin'March again this year! Throughout the month, we're encouraging tamariki, teachers and whānau to walk or wheel to and from school. Walking, biking, and scooting are great ways to boost well-being, get minds ready for learning, and help care for our planet. Kaiako will be stamping the children's WOW Passport each trip to or from school. Let's get moving, Kahurangi!







## Maths – No Problem!



We're looking forward to introducing **Maths – No Problem!** across all classes this year which is a new approach specifically designed to strengthen tamariki's maths skills and boost achievement.

With the introduction of the revised Mathematics Curriculum last year, our entire team has been working hard to unpack the changes and ensure a smooth transition in 2025.

This approach was originally developed in the UK and based on Singapore's successful maths model. **Maths – No Problem!** follows a mastery approach, providing a structured, sequenced learning progression where all tamariki can thrive.

**Starting Monday 10 March, all tamariki will be learning in their year groups (e.g. year 5's in one class), meaning some may move to a different teacher for maths. This shift allows for more explicit teaching, ensuring tamariki have the time and support to master each concept before moving on.**

All of our teachers—including part-time staff—have taken part in professional development to prepare for this shift. However, as with any new programme, it will take time for us to become fully confident with this approach. The programme includes:

- ☑ Hands-on equipment
- ☑ Working with a maths buddy
- ☑ Textbooks and workbooks (with some variations for Year 0/1)
- ☑ Revisiting key concepts at deeper levels

**Look out for further updates in upcoming newsletters.**



**CELLPHONES MUST NOT BE USED  
DURING SCHOOL TIME, INCLUDING  
BREAKS AND BEFORE SCHOOL.**

Whānau can access the full policy on our website under the 'Policies and Procedures' tab, which links to our School Docs site. Simply search for 'Cellphones and Other Personal Digital Devices.'



*Whānau I'm pleased to  
share our rangitahi are  
having no issues at all  
following these rules.*

## Help Keep Our Tamariki Safe – We Need You!

We urgently need more parent volunteers for road patrol to ensure our tamariki can get to and from school safely. **Just 20 minutes, once a week**, makes a huge difference!

**Morning shift: 8:30–8:50 am**

**Afternoon shift: 2:55–3:10 pm**

It's an easy and rewarding way to support our kura, and you'll be making a real impact on our students' safety.

If you can help or want to check available slots, **please contact Angela Keane** at [angela@kahurangi.school.nz](mailto:angela@kahurangi.school.nz). She'll work with you to find a time that suits.

## What's coming up

### Monday 3 March

#### Movin'March starts

We're encouraging tamariki, teachers and whānau to walk, bike, scooter to school. More details on page 2 of this newsletter.

### Wednesday 5 March

#### Eastern Zone Cricket Tournament

Children involved will have already come home with a notice about this.

### Friday 7 March

#### School Assembly

2:15pm  
Hosted by Waka Pūhara Tahī  
Whānau are always welcome!

### Monday 10 March

#### Dental Truck on site and will stay for four weeks

If you especially want your child to be seen please call Bee Healthy 0800 TALKTEETH (825 583)

### Wednesday 19 March

#### Girls Futsal Festival

Tamariki involved will have already come home with a notice about this.

### Wednesday 21 March

#### School Assembly

2:15pm  
Hosted by Waka Rimu Rua which is the class that learns with Maddie. Whānau are always welcome!

### Monday 10 March

#### Maths - No problem!

Our first official day of launching the Maths - No Problem! approach across all classes.