

Kahurangi SCHOOL

KIA ORA FROM KYRAN

Kia ora e te whānau.

A big thank you to everyone who picked up their tamariki early on Tuesday so our kaiako, learning support staff and I could attend the union meeting. Early finishes are never easy to juggle, so your support is very much appreciated (and not taken for granted).

Spellathon testing day is coming up soon, Friday 5 September. I hope children have been practising their words as well as gathering sponsors. If you haven't guite got to it yet, it's not too late. Every bit of support counts. Please encourage your child and help them find as many sponsors as you can. The Spellathon is a chance for tamariki to strengthen their spelling and for our kura to raise much-needed funds.

I want to be upfront with you. Fundraising is not something we usually place much focus on, and to be honest, it's something I find hard to do when I know money is already so tight for many families right now. But the reality is that costs for our school keep rising, while the funding we receive per child has stayed the same since Kahurangi opened in 2013. Over the past five years, we've had to draw on our reserves just to keep up, and those savings are now very low. Like many households, the school is feeling the financial squeeze.

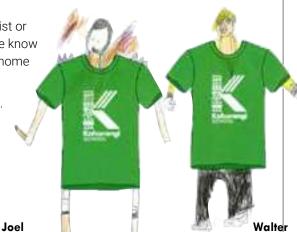
That's why this year's Spellathon is so important. Every dollar raised goes directly towards EOTC trips and after-school sport. This keeps opportunities open to all tamariki, not just those who can afford them.

To add an incentive, we've lined up some great prizes to celebrate both effort and success. Every child who raises something will receive a small treat, with bigger rewards like fidget toys, vouchers, or even a sports ball for those who reach higher targets. Each class's top fundraiser will take home the brand-new Guinness World Records 2026 book, while the overall school winner will receive a \$100 Warehouse voucher plus a \$50 Pak'nSave voucher for their parents. And to recognise achievement in learning, any child who scores 100 percent on their test will win a Principal's Prize Pack.

If you've misplaced your child's word list or sponsor sheet, don't worry. Just let me know and I'll make sure a new copy comes home with your tamariki.

Ngā mihi nui for backing this kaupapa. Your support means we can continue to give our tamariki the experiences they deserve.

Ngā mihi nui, Kyran Smith, Principal



noticeboard

Mon 25 Aug Step Up EOTC 2025 **Launch Party** Senior School

Wed 27 Aug **ArtSplash Choir** Concert 7:30pm Michael Fowler

Fri 5 Sept **Spellathon Testing Day**

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















Looking Ahead to 2026

As we begin planning for 2026, it's really helpful for us to know if your whanau is moving and your child will not be with us next year. Please let us know if this is the case so we can plan accordingly.

We're also keen to hear from whanau who have a child starting school in 2026. Margaret does a wonderful job of keeping track of siblings who are due to start, but it's always good to double check. If you have a child due to begin next year, please get in touch so we can make sure they're on our pre-enrolment list.

Looking sharp in our Kahurangi tshirts

Waka Pahī Rua tamariki have been busy sketching themselves rocking our Kahurangi School t-shirts. Some went for sporty looks, others added their own flair, and a few even gave themselves some serious accessories!

It's awesome to see how each drawing shows a bit of the artist's personality. Our tamariki have proven that no matter how you wear it, Kahurangi green looks great on everyone.

Ka pai, Waka Pahī Rua — we love your creativity!

Sum-thing to be proud of!

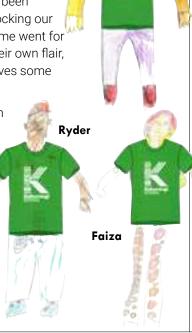




Twelve of our clever tamariki took part in the annual Mathswell competition today, representing Kahurangi with pride at Victoria University. Our teams did a fantastic job tackling the challenge, and the feedback from the day has been full of praise for their teamwork and effort. What an awesome opportunity for our students to stretch their mathematical thinking in a competitive but fun environment!

Thanks to Nicholas Masters who organised the trip and to the whānau who helped with transport and cheered our tamariki on — your support makes experiences like this possible!





Pyae Phyo Win



Voting in our School Board elections is now open, and you are invited to cast your vote.

We are fortunate to have such a wonderful community and some very impressive candidates putting their hands up for this important role. Please take the time to read the candidates' statements and make your vote count. The Board plays a vital role in our kura, and it's important that everyone's voice is represented.

An email with candidate statements and the voting link was sent on 13 August 2025 by Election Pilot . We have received six nominations for five parent representative spaces on the Kahurangi School Board. Candidate photos and statements are also available to read at the back of this newsletter.

Don't leave it until the last minute - voting closes at 4.00pm on Wednesday 10 September 2025.















What do our tamariki think about swimming?









"My favourite part of swimming is going on the bus with my friends because you get to talk a lot." Olive

"It's important to learn how to swim because it keeps us safe in the water." Angus

"Swimming makes me feel great." Zinnia.

"At the end of swimming I feel refreshed." "I like going swimming because it is helping me learn how to swim." Alfvin Lillyrose

Gwyn

"Swimming in the pool is cold!" Jeremiah

"I've learned to do star fish in the water." Toleen

"I like going swimming because you can swim all around the pool. Taimana

I'm good at doing arm-circles in the water (swim stroke). Jude

"I can now float on my back with an octopus on my head and it doesn't fall off." Isaac.P

"Swimming lessons are easy. When the swimming instructor tells me to do something I can always do it." Co

"I can now do what

sting rays do (swim along the bottom)."

"Now I can kick with a cup of water on a flutter board all the way across the water and it doesn't fall off!" Nita.

"Holding my breath underwater is hard. When I come up it makes me out-of-breath." Evie

"I like going under the water with goggles on!" Jeremiah

"It's hard to swim to the botton to get the sinking seal." Sineva



























Year 8 pre-enrolment for college

If you have a Year 8 child who will be starting college in 2026, it's important to get their pre-enrolment completed as soon as possible.



Colleges use this information to plan for class sizes, staffing, and subject options. Pre-enrolling your rangatahi also helps with a smooth transition, as the college can share orientation details and support students to feel ready for the move.

Every college has slightly different deadlines, so please check with your chosen school to make sure your child is enrolled in time.

If you're finding any part of the enrolment process tricky, we're more than happy to support you in any way we can just let us know. We'd love to help you get this step sorted now so your teen's start to secondary school is a really positive one.

Ngā mihi to our school nurse

Looking after the health and wellbeing of our tamariki is a team effort, and we're grateful to have our Public Health Nurse as part of that team.





Last week around 50 of our tamariki put up their hands to represent Kahurangi at the Eastern Zone Primary Schools Netball Tournament. It was awesome to see such a mix of players out on court - some of our Saturday netballers alongside children who don't usually play but were keen to give it a go.

Tournaments like this are about so much more than sport. They give our tamariki the opportunity to try something new, spend time with peers they might not usually play with or have in their class and enjoy a break from the regular school day. Experiences like these also help build confidence, teamwork and resilience - and most importantly, they're fun!













E: lynne.knowles@tewhatuora.govt.nz My days are Monday-Thursday.

What's coming up

Monday 25 August

Step Up EOTC 2025 Launch Party

The launch of our Education Outside The Classroom (EOTC) special two-yearly programme for Year 4-8 students

Tuesday 26 August

Junior School Swimming

Code Club @ School | Step Up EOTC 2025 Programme

Children that learn with Claire.

Wednesday 27 August

Artsplash Rehearsal Trip

Children in the choir. Information has already been sent home about this day.

Artsplash Choir Concert 7:30-9pm

Thursday 28 August

Duffy Role Model Assembly

All students.

Monday 1 September

Random Acts of Kindness Day

Tuesday 2 September

Junior School Swimming

Code Club @ School | Step Up EOTC 2025 Programme

Children that learn with Anna.

Friday 5 September

Spellathon Testing Day

Can you help on the day?

Like other years we're hoping that there may be whānau who are able to support us with the marking of all the spelling tests. If you can help, please let Kyran know.

Wētā Workshop Trip | Step **Up EOTC Programme**

Children who learn with Emma.T, Sarah and Mr Masters

Tuesday 9 September

Junior School Swimming

Eastern Zone **Swimming** Sports

For selected senior students.

Te Papa & 'City to Sea' Walking Tour | Step Up EOTC 2025 Programme

Maria

Give Padel a go - Special offer for our Kahurangi whānau

In our last newsletter I wrote about our staff giving padel a go at Padel House, and how much fun it was. The team there have now kindly offered a discount for our whānau and friends who might be keen to try it too.

Padel House is Wellington's first padel club, and the first indoor padel club in Aotearoa. It's a cross between tennis and squash, played in an enclosed cage. The walls mean the rallies keep going for longer, making it exciting, easy to pick up, and a great social game.

You'll find them at 48A Kemp Street, Kilbirnie (attached to the Indian Centre). To book a court, download the Padel House NZ app and use the code Kahu10 for 10% off your booking.

Follow them on Instagram @ padelhousenz for event and a link to their player WhatsApp group if you'd like to connect with others.



COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Meet the Candidates

Motu Kairangi / Eastern Suburbs Candidates Venue: Gateway Baptist Church Hall, 33 Park Road, Miramar Date: Thursday 28 August 2025 Time: 7.15pm - 9.30pm Light supper to follow

Meet the Mayoral Candidates

Venue: Gateway Baptist Church Hall, 33 Park Road, Miramar Date: Tuesday 9 September 2025 Time: 7,15pm - 9,30pm Light supper to follow

Brought to you by the local Progressive (Miramar/Maupuia) and Resident Associations

(Seatoun and Bays, Moa Point/Breaker Bay, Strathmore Park).



News from the Community X



Sana

















Kahurangi School Board Election Candidate Profiles

We are fortunate to have six candidates standing for election to our School Board. They are listed below in order of nomination date:

TOELUPE, Carissa Catherine



Tēnā koutou katoa, Ko Hāmoa, ko Ingarani te whakapaparanga mai, Ko Whanganui-a-Tara te kāinga, E mihi ana ahau ki ngā tohu o nehe o Whanganui-a-Tara e noho nei au,Ko Carissa ahauTēnā koutou katoaTalofa lavaMy name is Carissa Toelupe. I am of Samoan and Pākeha descent. My husband Uaea and I have two tamariki at Kahurangi School and one to come. I'd like to be on the school board so I can contribute to supporting Kyran, the staff and students of our school to enjoy and excel in their teaching, learning and playing. The school board plays an important role in school life and we have had a fantastic board under the leadership of Jane Pierard. I want to acknowledge all the past and present members of the board who have given of their time and effort over the years. I'm proud of our school and community, and think there's something special about our kura. There are many challenges in our education system and in our community, and I'm motivated to help our school navigate these. My working background is in policy as a public servant. My favourite and most challenging work is being a Mama. Tēnā tatou katoa.

PIERARD, Jane



Tēnā koutou katoa, talofa lava, mālō e lelei. Ko Jane Pierard tōku ingoa. Ngā mihi manahau ki a koutou. My husband Raj Nahna and I have had tamariki at Kahurangi for nearly nine years now. Our older daughter has left for high school, but we still have Magnolia (10) in year 6. My professional background has included roles in linguistics, education, policy, strategic governance, security, and disaster risk management across the public, private and not-for-profit sectors. I also have postgraduate qualifications in linguistics, theatre and strategic studies. I'm currently contracting part-time to our Te Kāhui Tika Tangata Human Rights Commission as a Special Advisor after a long career in senior leadership roles in government. Over the past three years, I've had the immense privilege of supporting Kahurangi School as a parent representative on the Board. This experience has allowed me to see firsthand the incredible mahi being done within our kura, and I've deeply valued the opportunity to contribute to its governance. I am committed to continuing to support our school's success, and ensuring the best possible environment and outcomes for all our tamariki.

AH KUOI, Ken



Talofa lava, my name is Ken Ah Kuoi. I'm standing for the Kahurangi School Board of Trustees because I care deeply about the success and wellbeing of our tamariki. My connection to the school is very personal - my twin grandchildren, Reegan and Rylee, have just started in Year 1. Like many of you, I want their school years to be filled with great learning, happy memories, and a strong sense of belonging. I bring a background that combines education, law, and community leadership. I began my career as a teacher before working for the Ministry of Education and the Education Review Office, where I learned first-hand what makes a school thrive - great teaching, strong leadership, and an active partnership with families. For the past 18 years, I have run my own law practice, and I have served on the boards of schools, charities, sports bodies, and community organisations. My approach is simple: listen to our community, make informed decisions, and always put the needs of our children first. I believe in transparency, fiscal responsibility, and supporting our teachers and staff so they can focus on what they do best - inspiring and educating our kids. Kahurangi is a vibrant and diverse school, and I value that diversity. I want to ensure every child feels included, respected, and encouraged to reach their full potential, whether that's in the classroom, on the sports field, or through creative activities. Education should help our children discover their strengths, build confidence, and develop the skills they need for life. As a grandparent, a former teacher, and a community leader, I understand the importance of working together. The Board of Trustees plays a key role in setting the vision for our school, supporting our principal and staff, and making decisions that affect every student. I would be honoured to contribute my experience, skills, and passion to that work. I'm committed to being a visible, approachable, and accountable board member who represents the voices of parents, whanau, and the wider community. Together, we can ensure Kahurangi School continues to be a place where every child can shine.















TOWNSEND, Mike



Ko Hikurangi te maunga. Ko Waiapu te awa. Ko Ngāti Porou tōku iwi. Ko Te Whānau a Takimoana tōku hapū. Ko Ōhinewaiapu tōku marae. Nō Tikitiki āhau. Ko Mike Townsend tōku ingoa. It has been a privilege to serve on the Kahurangi School Board for the past three years, and I would be honoured to continue in this role for a second term. My tamariki Kāhu and Māia, are thriving at our kura. They love being part of this vibrant and supportive school community and as a parent, I do too. Kahurangi is a special place, with a strong kaupapa, dedicated kaiako, and a deep commitment to equity, inclusion, and student wellbeing. It has been an absolute joy to contribute to that as a board member. Over the past term, I have worked closely with fellow trustees, whānau, and staff to support the governance of our kura. I'm proud of the work we've done to strengthen communication, uphold our values, and maintain a clear focus on what's best for our ākonga. If re-elected, I'll bring continuity and experience from my first term, and I'm keen to keep learning and contributing. I believe in shared leadership and would like to support newer board members as they step into the role, helping to keep the board strong, representative, and working well together. I'm also committed to helping deepen the relationship between the board and our Whānau Māori ropū. We've made some good progress in building that connection, but I believe there is still more we can do to listen, learn, and work in true partnership to uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi and support the aspirations of our Māori whānau. Professionally, I bring experience in governance, community engagement, and strategic planning, along with a background in creative industries and sustainable transport. My wife Hilleke and I have a long-standing connection to both Kahurangi and the Strathmore community. Including helping to bring the pump track to our kura through our charity, EkeRua ReBicycle. At the heart of it, though, I'm simply a parent and community member who cares deeply about our kura. Thank you for your support. I would love the opportunity to continue serving Kahurangi School and our community. Ngā mihi nui, Mike Townsend

HOWARD, Alison



Tēnā koutou katoa, ko Alison Howard ahau. I really love Kahurangi School, and so do my tamariki Tommy and Lachy. You might have met my husband Liam at Breakfast Club, or at school pick-up! Kahurangi is such a special school, and I have loved being able to contribute by being on the board - so I'm stranding again. My work experience across business and local government gives me a broad range of useful skills, particularly strategy and financial management. I also have governance experience in my technical field (sustainability) and I was chair of a not-for-profit board when my kids were little. While these are all useful skills, being on the Board is also about heart. The rich mix of backgrounds and experiences our whanau bring to the kura makes us who we are, and I want every child at Kahurangi to feel valued, supported and able to thrive. My particular focus is on neurodiversity and learning challenges. I would love to serve on the Board again, and contribute in this way to our school.

WADHAM, Sam



I'm Sam and I live in Strathmore Park, Wellington. I am married to Joy, who happens to be the best midwife in the Wellington area! She is involved in the life of the school as she helps with social media for Kahurangi Whanau. We have two boys; Noah is year 8, previously a student at Kahurangi and now at Scots College, and Teddy is Year 4 in Anika's class at Kahurangi. I want to run as a nominee for the board school so I can have a deeper understanding of how Kahurangi School works and contribute in any way I can. As Teddy still has a good amount of time left at the school I obviously have a personal interest in helping the school be the best it can be in every area! I have experience in education with a postgraduate diploma in Secondary School teaching and I have also worked as an English and History teacher for a number of years. I think this will help me to be aware of at least some of the issues that the school is facing. I currently work as a solicitor for a law firm in Wellington. I'm familiar with contract, clauses, and legislation which may also be helpful in a governance context. I'm grateful for this opportunity and would be very keen to act as a board member if I have the support. Many thanks everyone.

If you have an email address registered with the school, you should have received an email on Wednesday 13 August from 'Election Pilot' with your unique voting link. Please remember to check your junk or spam folder. If we don't have your email address, you will receive a voting pack in the post. This will include a QR code that you can scan to cast your vote. Voting closes at 4.00pm on Wednesday 10 September 2025.







