

# news

**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 quite 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.

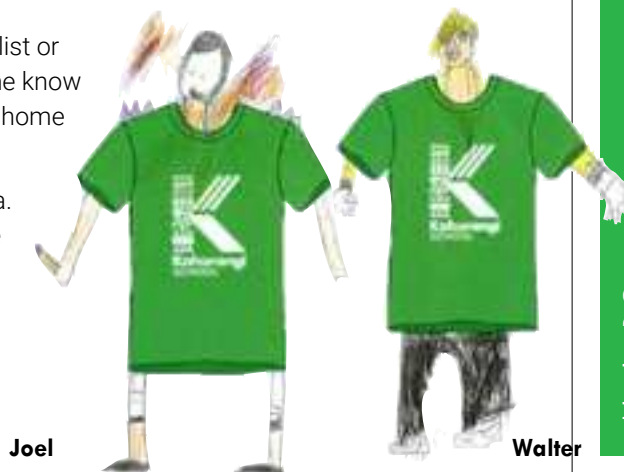
That's why this year's Spellathon is so important. Every dollar raised goes directly towards EOTC trips and after-school sport. This keeps opportunities open to all tamariki, not just those who can afford them.

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,  
Kyrn 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 whānau 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 whānau 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!

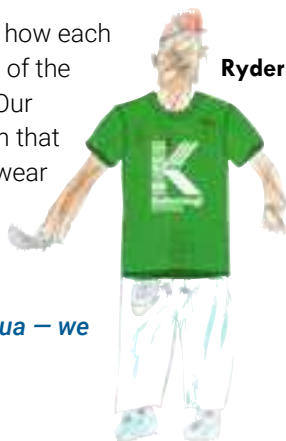
It's awesome to see how each drawing shows a bit of the artist's personality. Our tamariki have proven that no matter how you wear it, Kahurangi green looks great on everyone.

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

Pyae Phyto Win



Ryder



Faiza



## 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!



YOUR VOTE, YOUR POWER

# VOTE



KAHURANGI SCHOOL  
BOARD ELECTIONS

**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.**



*"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*

*"I like going swimming because it is helping me learn how to swim."*  
Alfvin

*"At the end of swimming  
I feel refreshed."*  
Lillyrose

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

*"Swimming makes me feel great." Zinnia.*

*"Swimming in the pool is cold!" Jeremiah*

*"I can now do what sting rays do (swim along the bottom)."*  
Gwyn

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

*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." Cobb*

*"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

*"Doing duck dives in the water is hard." Hattie*

*"It's hard to swim to the bottom 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.




[www.kahurangi.school.nz](http://www.kahurangi.school.nz)


















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

A woman with blonde hair tied in a bun, wearing a dark patterned jacket over a red top, is playing a cello. She is looking down at the instrument with a focused expression. A microphone is visible in the background.

[www.kahurangi.school.nz](http://www.kahurangi.school.nz)

















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## 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 rōpū. 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

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## 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 whānau 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.

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## 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.