



KIA ORA FROM KYRAN

## Tēnā koutou e te whānau o Kahurangi

It's hard to believe we've already reached the end of another school year. It still surprises me how quickly it arrives, maybe because the days and weeks are so full. But here we are, finishing 2025 with a lot to look back on and feel proud of. Once again, this year has felt big. Not chaotic, just full on. Full of busy learning days and learning shifts, full of new faces settling into our kura, full of those small everyday happenings that keep school days busy and each day never quite the same as the other.

### A Year of Major Change and Steady Progress

Like every primary school across the motu, we've been navigating massive curriculum changes. Structured Literacy and Structured Maths have continued to be embedded across our kura, and our kaiako have been building their confidence with these approaches while also getting to grips with the refreshed English and Maths curriculum. I'm incredibly proud of how hard our leaders and teachers have worked, investing huge amounts of time into professional development so they were ready for these shifts. Even when Ministry guidance arrived in pieces, the team stayed focussed on doing what is best for your tamariki. Much of this mahi happens quietly, and unless you're in classrooms or our meetings, you won't see the planning, reading, trialling and adjusting, but it has been significant.

As new information has rolled out, we've been refining our assessment systems too.

We know whānau might still feel a bit out of the loop. To be honest, it has been almost impossible to keep everyone fully informed because the shifts have been continuous and, at times, have changed again soon after. We often haven't had the full picture ourselves, and with regular updates still arriving, we've known it hasn't been the right time to introduce whānau to the new direction.

What we do know is that further changes are expected in 2026, so next year may feel similar in terms of adjustment. One shift that will be especially noticeable is the change

in how we report to parents. Our hope is that 2026 brings more certainty so we can bring whānau along with us in a clearer, more confident way.

### Life and Learning Across Our Kura

When we think back over the year, the energy across our kura has been unmistakable. Whether it was Movin'March, swimming, cross country or the many sports and activities our tamariki took part in, you could feel their motivation, kindness and the way they cheer one another on. It sets the tone for everything else.

That same energy has been present in classrooms. Our tamariki have been curious, engaged and willing to try new things across all areas of learning. They've also adjusted incredibly well to the ongoing shifts in Structured Literacy and Structured Maths. These programmes have asked a lot of them, but they've taken the changes in their stride and grown in confidence as the year has unfolded.

We've also celebrated the cultures and identities that make our kura what it is. These moments are always special, especially when you see tamariki stand a little taller as their language, culture or stories are shared. It's a powerful reminder of how important belonging is.

And our EOTC Step Up programme for Years 4 to 8 was another standout. There is a huge amount of unseen work behind the planning and logistics of each outing, but the learning and confidence it builds for our tamariki make every bit of that mahi worthwhile.



## Our Whānau and Community

Across the year we welcomed many new learners and their whānau. Our tamariki included them so naturally, which says a lot about who they are and the culture we've built together.

And to all our whānau who have helped in ways big and small, thank you. The visible things like supporting sports teams, coaching, managing, lifting boxes at events, donating kai or covering Breakfast Club are noticed and appreciated. But it's also the invisible mahi that makes such a difference... the consistent effort to support good attendance, the bedtime reading, the quiet conversations at home that back up our expectations at school, the encouragement on the tough mornings, the trust you place in us, and the way so many of you stay aligned with our messaging. All of that matters. Probably more than you realise. We see it, we feel it, and we're genuinely grateful.

## A Dedicated Board and an Incredible Staff

Our Board has provided calm, thoughtful governance in a year of curriculum change, legislative updates, elections and strategic planning. Thank you to Jane, Mike, Alison, and to our newest members Carissa, Sam and Brynne, for leading with such care and purpose. A special acknowledgement also to our outgoing members Iraia, Angela and Robyn, whose contributions over their time on the Board were deeply valued.

Across our staff, there is so much to be grateful for. Our leadership team of Ruth, Claire and Natalie have each brought strength, steadiness and care to their multiple roles, guiding children, teachers and teams through a full and fast-moving year. To our classroom teachers Emma B,

Melody, Maddie, Brynne, Emma T, Claire, Anika, Grant, Emma M, Sarah, Anna and Nicholas, thank you for the commitment, calmness and consistency you bring to your tamariki every day. Our part-time teachers Vangela and Lesley have stepped in seamlessly to support teaching and learning, and Sam and Angela have often taken on teaching roles at short notice when relievers were unavailable. Our teacher aides Angela, Sam, Hannah, Nadine and Liam continue to support tamariki with such care, and our office team, led by Margaret with support from Sam and Angela, keep our kura running smoothly even on the busiest days. A special thank you to Leah, our counsellor, for the steady guidance you offer each Tuesday, and to Fono, whose unseen mahi outside school hours keeps our outdoor spaces safe, tidy and welcoming for us all.

## A Final Mihi to Our Tamariki

You are the reason this place feels alive. Every day you bring energy, curiosity, kindness and a whole lot of love into our kura. Thank you for the effort you put into your learning, for the way you look after one another, and for the resilience you show when things are new or challenging. We are incredibly proud of you. All of you. You really are the heart of Kahurangi, and everything we do begins with you.

As we close out what has been another full year, I hope the summer break gives everyone in our Kahurangi whānau some space to rest and enjoy time with whānau and friends.

Ngā mihi o te Kirihihieme ki a koutou. Thank you for the privilege of leading this kura. It's something I never take lightly.

Kyran Smith | Tumuaki

## Our Year 8 leavers' dinner and celebration was a special evening



The Year 8 Leavers' Celebration at The Pines was such a lovely night. The kids looked proud, if a little nervous, right up until they'd finished their speeches.

The performances and kōrero were really well received, and you could feel the pride of whānau throughout the room. There were plenty of smiles, a few teary eyes, and a real sense that our rangatahi are more than ready for college!



## Staff leaving at the end of the year

This is the time of year when we look back on the year that's been and ahead to what's coming next. Part of that is acknowledging the people who are moving on from our kura. It's always bittersweet, even when we know their next steps are right for them.

**Maddie Boyes** joined us as a beginning teacher and has spent the past three years in our junior school, giving her all for our tamariki. Many of you will know the kindness and calm steadiness she brings to a classroom. She has grown so much as a kaiako during her time here, developing real capability and confidence, and we're really proud of the teacher she has become.

**Emma Belam** and **Sarah Ramsay** are also completing their time with us at the end of 2025. We always knew their roles were fixed term, and although we were hopeful they might stay, both have real reasons for moving on. They've each made their mark in their own way, and the children who have been in their classes know first-hand why we value them so much. Emma is heading to Dubai to teach after a visit home to the UK, and Sarah is preparing for some travel and new experiences. Sarah isn't heading overseas straight away, so there's a good chance we'll see her back doing some relieving in the new year, which we'll really appreciate. They bring that same mix of warmth, high expectations, capability, and genuine care that makes learning enjoyable and safe for their ākonga.

**Hannah Lousley**, one of our Teacher Aides, is also moving on. Hannah has completed her first year of teacher training, and stepping away from Kahurangi will give her the space she needs to focus on the demands of study. Who knows, maybe the next time we see Hannah in a school it will be in her new role as a kaiako. She'll still be living locally, so I'm sure we'll spot her around the neighbourhood.

We also want to acknowledge **Melody Holmes**, who joined us for a short, planned period while we opened a new junior class in Term 3. Melody stepped into this role with professionalism and warmth, and we're grateful for the time and energy she brought to our kura. As one of our parents, we'll continue to see her around, and there may even be opportunities for her to do some work with us again next year.

Staff moving on is a natural part of school life. People grow, circumstances change, and new opportunities arise, though it still brings a few emotions at this time of year. Our departing kaimahi take a piece of our place with them, just as they leave their mark on our tamariki and colleagues.

We wish Maddie, Emma, Sarah, Hannah, and Melody all the very best for the next stage of their journeys. They'll always be part of the wider Kahurangi story and are welcome back anytime.



Whanau this assembly is a really special moment in our kura year. It's the one time we come together as a whole community to celebrate our tamariki and the year we've had. Every child will be performing through kapa haka, and they've been practising hard for it.

Turnout last year was pretty tough and really highlighted how important it is for our kids to have us there. We know life is busy and clashes come up, but we'd truly appreciate whānau making this evening a priority.

Yes, a few awards are given out, but that's not the focus. The night is really about connection, pride, and standing together as a community.

We'd love to see the hall full this year. Bring the whole whānau and let our tamariki feel the strength and support of Kahurangi behind them.

## A message from the Whānau Māori Strategic Working Group



Last year, a meeting was held for whānau Māori to share their aspirations for Māori tamariki and the embedding of Te Ao Māori across our kura. From this hui our Whānau Māori Strategic Working Group was established and has been steadily growing in strength and purpose, with a clear focus on creating long-lasting foundations for the future of Kahurangi School. Through a series of hui, we've formed a committed group working alongside the Board and our school to shape a shared vision for what lies ahead. This mahi is only the beginning. We look forward to continuing this important journey in the new year and will be reaching out to connect further with our wider whānau and hapori.

# 2026 BREAKING NEWS!

## Class placement for next year

As long as everything falls into place, we'll email whānau next week with class placements for 2026. Letting tamariki know before the break really helps settle any nerves over the long summer.

Just a quick reminder that a lot of different factors sit behind these decisions. Each one takes careful thought, and our team puts genuine care into finding the best possible fit for your child wherever we can.

## Introducing our new teachers

We're really pleased to welcome three new teachers to our Kahurangi whānau next year. Some of our tamariki met Anahera and Oliver last week when they spent a day with us beginning their induction, which was lovely to see.

We also have another teacher we're close to securing who has been teaching in the UK and will teach our youngest learners. I'm hoping to introduce her to our new entrant whānau before the year ends, or early in the new year.

If you'd like to learn more about our new kaiako, I'll be adding their introductions to our school website soon.

### Anahera Pohe

Anahera is a graduate teacher returning home to Wellington after completing her studies in Te Tai Tokerau. She was drawn to Kahurangi because our kaupapa aligns with her belief in nurturing tamariki to feel confident, valued, and proud of who they are.

She brings a gentle, humble presence that strengthens our culture, along with a positive energy children respond to so well. Anahera is especially excited to join a kura where te ao Māori and wellbeing are woven through everyday learning.



### Oliver Macesmith



Oliver is also newly graduated and has spent this year growing his practice in primary classrooms. He was drawn to Kahurangi because of our focus on inclusive, relationship-based teaching and the way we value the whole child. He brings

a naturally warm, friendly, and collaborative manner, and is known for his calm positivity and willingness to learn. Oliver is excited to join a kura where hauora, connection, and belonging sit alongside strong learning.

## Important Dates for Our 2026 School Year

### TERM DATES

Term 1	3 February - 2 April	9 weeks
Term 2	20 April - 3 July	11 weeks
Term 3	20 July - 25 September	10 weeks
Term 4	12 October - 16 December	10 weeks



**Mark your calendar!**

### IMPORTANT DATES

#### Term 1

- Friday 6 February – Waitangi Day
- Monday 23 March – Teacher Only Day

#### Term 2

- Monday 27 April – ANZAC Day
- Friday 29 May – Teacher Only Day
- Monday 1 June – King's Birthday

#### Term 3

- Wednesday 29 July – Teacher Only Day

#### Term 4

- Monday 26 October – Labour Day



**TUES 9 DEC**  
**9-11:30AM**

**KBC**  
**BREAKFAST CLUB**  
TE KARAPU PARAKUHI • KAHURANGI

**Parakuihi /  
breakfast Mon,  
Tues & Friday  
mornings in  
Broadway Hall  
from 8am**

## NAU MAI, HAERE MAI!

**KAHURANGI FRIENDS** invites parents and teachers  
to join our tamariki in Broadway for a special

# WHĀNAU BREAKFAST CLUB

8AM THURSDAY 11TH DEC

As well as the usual **TOAST, MILO AND CEREALS**,  
we will be serving up some extra breakfast **TREATS**  
and there'll be **COFFEE** for the adults! ☺



For more information

Emily 0274282648

Kylie [kahurangibreakfastclub@gmail.com](mailto:kahurangibreakfastclub@gmail.com)

## Talented athletes doing us proud!

I want to give a special shout-out to two of our tamariki who represented Kahurangi and the wider Eastern Suburbs at the Wellington Inter-Zone Athletics Competition.

**Laite** took out 1st place in the Year 7 Discus, which is an incredible result.

**Deirus** placed 3rd in the Year 4 Quoits, showing real skill for someone so young.

HAVE YOU GOT ANY AT HOME?

**PLEASE RETURN  
THEM TO SCHOOL**

## SCHOOL T-SHIRTS

## READING BOOKS

LIBRARY BOOKS

We don't mind how many you have, we just need them back before the end of the year.

## What's coming up

**Tuesday 9 Dec**

### Practise for our Final Assembly at St Patricks College

**Thursday 11 December**

**Whānau Breakfast Club**  
8am

*See notice above!*

## Wednesday 10 December

## Final Assembly

6:30-7:30pm

We intentionally have this event in the evening so whānau can come. Children need to arrive at 6:10am in time to get dressed.

**Wednesday 17 December**

**Last day of the school year.**

Please note our early finish time of 12:30pm finish.

 **News from the Community** 

JOIN US FOR

# Family Carols

Sunday 21 December  
5pm to 6.30pm

Raukawa Community Centre  
67 Raukawa Street, Strathmore

**Bouncy castles, sausage sizzle, Christmas carols and more!**

Check our facebook page for wet weather updates



STRATHMORE  
COMMUNITY  
CHURCH

**PENINSUL**  
**PARIS**



# Kia ora e te whānau!

The **Bingo Night**, **raffles**, and **delicious hāngī** were a huge success, and only possible with the support of our Kahurangi School whānau pitching in. Huge mihi to all those who were able to help with preparing and serving the hāngī, And those for setting up Broadway (it looked amazing!), assisting with bingo and cleaning up afterwards.



**Special thanks** goes out to **Kyran** for leading her expert bingo calling skills to our event. And to **Angela “The Stuffing Queen”** for guiding us through the process of how to use our kai cooker, and the secrets to making a tino reka tasty hāngī. We've had some great feedback!



**For more information** on how you can help at the next fundraiser, please contact us on [kahurangi.fundraiser@gmail.com](mailto:kahurangi.fundraiser@gmail.com) or grab one of the **KW board members**, Penelope Cree, Cecilie Alletorp, Anna Gifford, Ben Powedrell or Preston McNeil.

Ngā mihi nui,  
**Kahurangi Whānau**



**Congratulations to  
our raffle winners!**

Grocery Grab raffle - Julie  
Tradie Services raffle - Julie  
Carlucciland Kids Party raffle - Jude

**Ngā mihi nui ki ngā  
Kahurangi Whānau  
ngā kaiarahi rōpū!**

Thanks to our Kahurangi Whānau board members  
for organising these events!  
**Penelope Cree, Cecilie Alletorp, Anna Gifford,  
Ben Powdrell and Preston McNeil.**

## Thanks to our amazing local businesses

Broadway Motors Ltd  
 1000 BROADWAY RD, AUCKLAND  
 09 224 1111

CARBOCLAND  
 MINI GOLF

CAMERON HARRISON  
 COUNTRYSIDE HOMES

STRATHMORE  
 LOCAL CO

ZEALANDIA  
 TE MĀRA A TĀNE

ecostore  
 WONDERLAND  
 FRUIT & VEG

BUNNINGS  
 warehouse

ROXY  
 CINEMA

Staglands

Palmers

HUSKI

The Polish Sausage Co.

NEW WORLD