



# Muritai Beacon

'Be The **Best** We can be'

Rāhina 27 o Poutū-te-rangi,

Kia ora Muritai whānau,

As we approach the final stretch of Term 1, it is wonderful to look back at everything we've achieved together. It has been a busy, productive, and vibrant start to the year!

Our Kereru students have just returned from Makahika Camp, and the energy they brought back is infectious, even with the lack of sleep! Beyond the mud, rain and the physical challenges, these experiences are vital for our tamariki. The benefits of camp are far-reaching:

- **Building Resilience:** Navigating new environments and physical obstacles builds "grit."
- **Teamwork:** Students learn to rely on one another, strengthening peer bonds.
- **Independence:** For many, it's a big step in self-management away from home.
- **Nature Connection:** Reconnecting with the outdoors provides a significant boost to mental well-being.

I had a wonderful day visiting them on-site yesterday and was incredibly impressed with how they were challenging themselves, supporting their peers and overall having an absolute ball! A huge thank you to all the parents who supported the team up at Makahika - your participation in these experiences is hugely valuable. A special thanks to Phil Rodley and the rest of the Kererū teachers for providing this wonderful opportunity for the Kererū tamariki. Giving up your own time away from your own families is greatly appreciated!

A huge shout-out to our **Kāhu Charity Team** for organising a fantastic **Pyjama Day on Tuesday**. It was heartwarming to see the school in their cosiest gear, all for a great cause. Together, we raised just under \$500 for **Te Omanga Hospice**, supporting the incredible work they do for our community. Well done team!

We have a few important updates regarding our school grounds:

- **Asbestos Removal:** Please be aware that professional asbestos removal is scheduled for **this weekend and throughout the school holidays**. The site will be strictly managed according to safety regulations. Please check your Hero app for previous comms about this.



- **Roofing Progress:** While the roofing and cladding work is progressing well, the completion date has been pushed out to **May**.
- **Term 2 Transitions:** Because of this delay, classes currently in temporary rooms will **remain there for the start of Term 2**. We appreciate the patience of our students and staff as we ensure our buildings are safe and watertight.

A massive **thank you** to everyone who turned up for our recent working bee! The garden space is looking rejuvenated and continues to look glorious. It is great to see our tamariki continue to use this space more regularly during play and learning times.

Last week a small group of Kāhu students popped into Mainly Music to share some waiata with the young tamariki and parents. What a wonderful way to connect with our local community!

Thank you to the small but vocal group of students who represented our school so proudly at the St Albans Fete last week. Your **waiata performance** was a highlight and was well received by many!



## Shared Pathway Grand Opening

Mark your calendars! The **Shared Pathway** will be officially opening on **April 18th**, and our school will be playing a key role in the celebrations.

**Keep a look out:** We will be sending out further details regarding the opening ceremony next week, just before we head into the **Easter break**.

This is our last newsletter for Term 1 - the time has certainly flown by! If I don't see you before the school break, have a lovely Easter break with whānau and friends. Relax and recharge, and we look forward to seeing you all back on **Monday 20th April for the first day of Term 2**.



Ngā Mihi

Stu Devenport

## Muritai School Swimming Sports Report 🌊☀️

Muritai School enjoyed a fantastic swimming sports season this term, with students showing enthusiasm, courage and wonderful house spirit across all year levels.

Swimming is an important part of life in Aotearoa, and our school swimming sports play a key role in promoting water safety, physical fitness and school spirit. Through participating in swimming events, students build confidence in the water, develop their swimming skills, and experience the fun of supporting their classmates and houses.

The Kororā (Years 1–2) and Tui (Years 3–4) teams held their swimming sports on Wednesday 25th February at the



beautiful Eastbourne Pool. With the sun shining, it was a perfect day for our youngest swimmers to enjoy the water.

The Kororā students had an awesome time participating in a range of fun activities including noodle races, dolphin diving and other exciting water challenges. There were plenty of smiles, laughter and growing confidence in the pool.

The Tui students also had a fantastic day, competing in a variety of races including freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke, kickboard races and class relays. The students showed great determination and cheered each other on throughout the day.



#### Tui Swimming Sports Results:

- 🥇 1st – Charters
- 🥈 2nd – King
- 🥉 3rd – Cooke
- 4th – Sanson

Our senior students from Kererū and Kāhu held their swimming sports on Friday 13th March at Ngaengae Pool. The day was filled with energy, house chants and plenty of house spirit as students competed across more than 40 events.

There were many highlights throughout the day, with students achieving personal bests and coming out of the water smiling. It was wonderful to see houses cheering loudly, siblings supporting one another, and students encouraging their teammates. The strong sense of tuākana-tēina, with older and younger students supporting each other, was evident throughout the day.

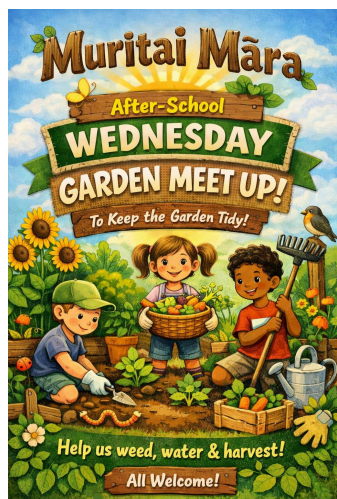
The event concluded with the always exciting class and house relays.

#### Kererū & Kahu Swimming Sports Results:

- 🥇 Charters
- 🥈 Sanson
- 🥉 King
- 4th – Cooke

A huge thank you to all of our teachers and the Muritai staff for their support throughout the swimming season, and a special thanks to Mr Mackie, who went above and beyond to help make the programme such a success.

We look forward to being back in the water again in Term 4! 🌊🏊  
Sports Captains for 2026: Betty McDonald & Darlene Tareha Smith



#### **Garden News:**

Many thanks to the wonderful team who attended the working bee on the 21st, we made great progress!

A reminder that on Wednesday's after school each week there is a garden meetup. All are welcome!

On Tuesday next week, 31st March, Tui are completing a very special project to make some Atua for our garden.

If you are available to help in any way please email [flovell@muritai.school.nz](mailto:flovell@muritai.school.nz). We are also looking for 3 treated fence posts to mount these on. Is there anyone who happens to have 3 spare posts of at least 1.8m we can have??



Cheers, Māra Muritai Team

## Principal Awards

Congratulations to the students listed who all received a Principal Award at our last assembly. Well done to you all! Sophie Bleier, Matai Webby, Sophie Salmon, Ngahuia Barker were chosen for fish'n' chips with Mr D!



Matai Webby, Evie Richards	Room 1
Layla Tuiomanufili, Harry Haylock	Room 2
Elliot Small, Fern Andrews	Room 3
Leo Samways, Sophie Salmon	Room 4
Lottie Peterson, Elijah Parker Best	Room 5
Nate Botha, Charlotte Moore	Room 6
Lily Ramsey, Maca Blair	Room 7
Alda McKelvey, Ngahuia Barker	Room 8
Eva Christensen, Ted Fahey	Room 9
Finn Dicaprio, Lara Hamilton	Room 10
Sophie Bleier, Rhyan Hoy	Room 11
Jett Grant, Olivia Drummond	Room 17
Mia Groves, Otto Schollum	Room 21
Tayla Machet, Eben Harris	Room 22
Toby Thomson, Lily Phipps	Room 23

Important Dates	
Date	Event
23 Mar	Pizza Monday
23 Mar	Boostrix vaccination for Y7's
25-27 Mar	Camp Makahika Kererū
30 Mar - 2 Apr	Kāhu Technology
2 Apr	Assembly whole school
2 Apr	Last Day of Term 1 Normal finishing time
20 Apr	First Day of Term 2
22 Apr	Vision and Hearing for children Y1-6
24 Apr	Strike Performance whole school
24 Apr	Community Kapa Haka 9am
27 Apr	Day for ANZAC day

1 May	Community Kapa Haka 9am
5 May	Muritai School Cross Country
6 May	Kererū at Space Place
8 May	Cross Country postponement day
11 May	Blake VR sessions for Kererū and Kāhu
15 May	Pink Shirt Day
19 May	Zone Cross Country
21 May	Zone Cross Country postponement day
29 May	TEACHER ONLY DAY
2 May to 1 June	Dental Van visiting
4 June	National Young Leaders Day Y8
16 June	Interzone Cross Country
18 June	Interzone Cross Country postponement day
30 June	Regional Cross Country
2 July	Regional Cross Country postponement day
3 July	Last day of Term 2
20 July	First day of Term 3

### 2026 Dates:

**Term 1** Wednesday 4 February - Thursday 3 April

**Term 2** Monday 20 April - Friday 3 July

**Term 3** Monday 20 July to Friday 25 September

**Term 4** Monday 12 October to Wednesday 16 December

**COMMUNITY NOTICES - Please Note - the following notices have been requested to be published and are not necessarily endorsed by us as a school. In the spirit of community we include these digitally for you to peruse.**

The final screening of the **New Zealand Premiere** of "WHO KNEW: Dyslexia Is a Way of Thinking" is on **Saturday, March 28,**

This is a rare, special opportunity to hear directly from the visionaries behind this global project.

If you are ready to move from "fixing" a struggle, to celebrating a natural brilliance, this is the session you won't want to miss.

We currently have over 150 families registered. Now is the final window to secure your spot, or invite a friend to the Saturday Finale to meet Sue and Laura.

👉 [Secure your tickets here today](#)

Screening Dates and times:

- Tuesday March 24, 7.30pm NZT / 5.30pm AEDT
  - Thursday March 26, 7.30pm NZT / 5.30pm AEDT
  - Saturday March 28, 3pm NZT / 1pm AEDT
- with special guests Sue Hall and Laura O'Neill for the Q&A



**Hutt United Hockey Club welcomes new & returning players - Come play hockey!**

**For a taster, come to our Muster on Tues 31 March: 5-6pm for Yr 1/2 & 2/4; and 6-7pm for Yr 5/6 & 7/8, at Fraser Park. All welcome!**

Hockey is great for kids! Coordination, balance, teamwork, mental strength and fitness. The training sessions and games are positive and fun, increasing in focus as children progress up the grades.

**To sign up for the full season [REGISTER HERE](#) before 4 April.**

Junior teams practice Tuesday evenings and games are played Saturday mornings. Games start 2 May and run to 12 September. For all details, dates and times visit our website: <https://www.huttunitedhockeyclub.co.nz/junior-club>. Subs are between \$65-\$135 for the whole season (all info on our website).

For questions, there's info [online](#) or email [juniorclubcaptain@huttunitedhockeyclub.co.nz](mailto:juniorclubcaptain@huttunitedhockeyclub.co.nz).

**See you on the turf!**

## Holiday Programme - Bookings Now Open!

Join us for an unforgettable adventure these school holidays!

Our Holiday Programme provides ample entertainment for kids aged between 5 and 13 and gives them the opportunity to do things they enjoy in a safe, supportive, and encouraging environment. Our programme changes each holiday, and these holidays are going to be jam-packed full of new arts and crafts, cooking, discovery, games, and sports.

Book now at [www.kellyclub.co.nz/muritai](http://www.kellyclub.co.nz/muritai)

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. - Vanessa Chatfield on [muritai@kellyclub.co.nz](mailto:muritai@kellyclub.co.nz)

## Easter School Holiday Playshops At hARTspace

### Week Two

April 13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>

Daily 9-3pm, (half days available).

Come along to **hARTspace** this term break. A fun, creative Art Studio, enjoy stories, mindfulness and friendship.

Where: 11 Rimu Street.

Bring food, drink, jackets and hats.

### Themes:

Monday 13 - Peg-doll faery and faery houses.

Tuesday 14 - Colourful quick-dry clay birds in a tree.

Wednesday 15 - Wet-felting, whimsical fabric pictures.

Thursday 16 - Nautical collages using natural materials in marbled frames.

Friday 17 - Dotty canvas inspired by First National Australian art.

### Book Now:

Txt Clare 021 0574487

Limited spaces available, \$50 half day, \$90 full day.

**Build a great family  
team and have fun  
along the way!**



## ATTENTION PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS!

Do you care for a child aged 10-18 years?  
Do you and your child permanently live in New Zealand?



### WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Our research explores how parents and caregivers feel about youth legal rights and how well they understand them.

Complete our 20min online survey and go in the draw for **one of four \$50 vouchers**.

Scan the QR code to participate in the confidential survey.



Email [amelia.romijn@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:amelia.romijn@vuw.ac.nz) for any queries.  
Ethical approval has been granted by the Victoria University of Wellington Human Ethics Committee (No. 2025/HE040044)



## Feel confident to tackle parenting at any stage!

Toolbox parenting courses are bursting with practical strategies and ideas to inspire and equip you on your parenting journey – wherever you're up to.

Toolbox courses are held in-person or online over six weeks, led by a trained facilitator within a relaxed and conversational small group.

### Three great courses

- Preschool Years (2-4)
- Primary Years (5-11)
- Teenage Years (12-18)

### Topics include

- The importance of love and connection
- Different parenting styles
- Understanding your child's big emotions
- Working through common challenges
- Unpacking discipline and creating boundaries
- Family rituals and fun
- And plenty more tools and insights!

Parent Help is running a Primary Years Toolbox parenting course - in-person & online, starting May 4th.

Register your spot today! Call 04 802 5767 or email [info@parenthelp.org.nz](mailto:info@parenthelp.org.nz)

To learn more about how Parenting Place can support your parenting journey, visit [parentingplace.nz](http://parentingplace.nz)



# THE CIRCUS HUB

## SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

Looking for something fun for your kids to do during the school holidays?

Our school holiday programme is for children aged 5+, whether they have circus experience or not.

The programme always includes a variety of circus lessons, lots of games and activities to get creative.

### HOW TO BOOK

- Contact us on [info@circus.org.nz](mailto:info@circus.org.nz)
- Book online at [www.circus.org.nz](http://www.circus.org.nz)

Bookings are essential - please book a spot before 5pm the previous day



- ✓ Learn exciting circus skills like aerials, tumbling, juggling & more...
- ✓ Build confidence and coordination
- ✓ Make new friends and have a blast!
- ✓ Expert instruction from experienced circus trainers
- ✓ A fun, inclusive environment for all skill levels

### What parents need to know

**Next Available Date**

- April (Easter) School Holidays

**Times**

- running time - 9am-3pm
- drop off from - 8:30am
- pick up by - 3:30pm

**Cost**

- Daily cost \$76 per child

**What to Wear**

- Comfortable stretchy clothes
- No zips, buttons, buckles or loose/hanging jewellery

**What to Bring**

- packed lunch
- a snack
- water bottle (plastic or metal with sealable top)
- sun hat and sunblock
- warm layer (for a Wellington summer!)

**Where to find us:**

- Te Whaea complex
- 11 Hutchison Road
- Newtown, Wellington 6021

Drive past the Te Whaea main entrance on Hutchison Rd or from the lower entrance which is off Hall Street.



## GREENWOOD STUDIO EASTBOURNE PARTIES & WORKSHOPS


Looking for fun, hands-on workshops to keep your kids inspired over the Easter break?

Greenwood Studio in Eastbourne is offering three holiday sessions where kids can get creative and make something really special to take home.

Email [rachel@rachelstichbury.com](mailto:rachel@rachelstichbury.com) or book online [www.rachelstichbury.com](http://www.rachelstichbury.com)




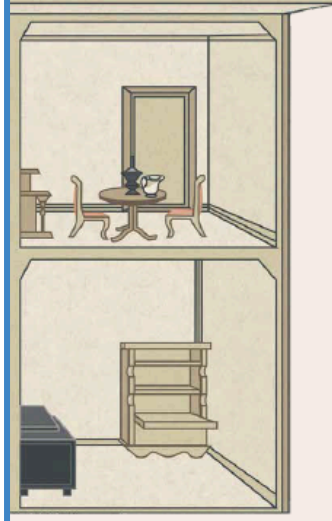
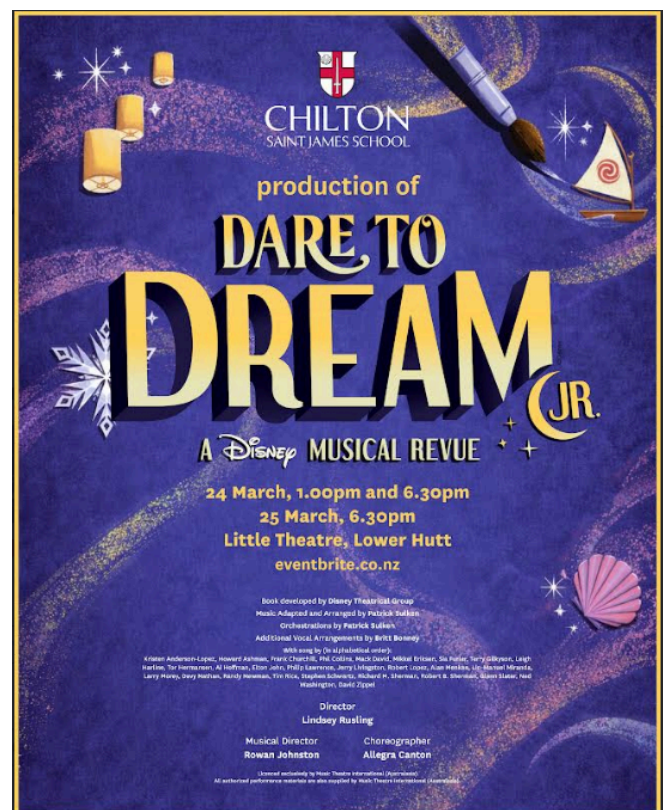
# School holiday creative writing workshops



Katherine Mansfield House & Garden's creative writing workshops for young people aged 10-14 are a fun way for keen young writers to get inspired and develop their skills.

Monday 13 April, 9.30am & 1.30pm, \$25 per session – writing materials and snack included.

Details and registration at [www.katherinemansfield.com](http://www.katherinemansfield.com)

CHILTON SAINT JAMES SCHOOL

production of

# DARE TO DREAM JR.

A DISNEY MUSICAL REVUE

24 March, 1.00pm and 6.30pm  
25 March, 6.30pm  
Little Theatre, Lower Hutt  
[eventbrite.co.nz](http://eventbrite.co.nz)

Book developed by Disney Theatrical Group  
Music Adapted and Arranged by Patrick Kubacki  
Orchestrations by Patrick Kubacki  
Additional Vocal Arrangements by Brett Bonney  
With song by Disney Theatrical Group

Kristen Anderson-Lopez, Howard Ashman, David Byrne, Eric Clapton, Eric Clapton, Hugh Downs, Helen Brown, De Paul, Terry Gilmore, Leigh Harline, The Hornsby Trio, Al Hoffman, Elton John, Philip LaVerrier, Jerry Maguire, Robert Lopez, Alan Menken, Leitch Montano, Larry Murphy, Gary Nardino, Randy Newman, Tim Rice, Stephen Schwartz, Richard M. Sherman, Robert & Sherman, Susan Stash, Neil Tennant, David Byrne

Director  
Lindsay Rustling

Musical Director  
Rowan Johnston

Choreographer  
Allegra Canton

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