



Muritai Beacon

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

Rāhina 13 o Poutū-te-rangi,

Kia ora Muritai whānau,

This week, I had the pleasure of attending the Wellington Primary Principals Conference at Te Papa. The theme, *Lead at Speed*, offered a timely reflection on the fast-paced nature of modern education and the importance of going at a pace that is right for our people. Some of the most salient messages I've brought back include:

- **Leading Through Change:** Navigating shifts in education with clarity and purpose.
- **Staff Well-being:** The importance of supporting our hardworking staff to ensure a healthy environment for everyone.
- **Team Culture:** Strategies for growing a strong, cohesive culture that benefits every student.

We continued to roll out our student leadership announcements, this week we introduced our 2026 House Captains during our very first House Hui! It was fantastic to see these students step up, ready to provide a strong voice for their peers and embody our school values. The house chants were sung with pride!

Yesterday, we had a stunner of a day for our first Mihi Whakatau of the year. It was a beautiful occasion to formally welcome all our new students, staff, and whānau to our kura. Thank you to everyone who joined us in making our newcomers feel at home. I'd also like to acknowledge the great mahi done by students of Room 8 last year, who presented some research on the significance of our Pou in the playground, (which were erected 25 years ago). This has led to us altering the layout of our Mihi Whakatau to ensure our backs are to the pou. We look forward to giving the pou some much needed TLC once the construction fences vanish in Term 2!

Today was one of the highlights of the term: our annual Year 5-8 Swimming Sports at Te Ngaengae Pool. The "House Spirit" was electric, and we saw some truly impressive swimming ability across all year levels.

A huge thank you to the parents who came along to cheer and support. Events like these wouldn't be the same without your presence on the sidelines!



Our Kāhu students facilitated a great session with our younger students last week, sowing seeds for our garden. A huge thank you to the awesome parents who helped out with this process too. We are looking forward to seeing them grow so they are ready for planting in Māra Muritai!

Our Kererū team is in full preparation mode for Makahika Camp in Week 8 - we know the students are getting very excited for this adventure!

Next week Sue Allman is visiting Muritai to capture class and individual photos. Please check the HERO app for more information on scheduled times for your child/ren. Get those smiles ready!

There are currently a number of "nasty bugs" circulating in the community. To help us keep our classrooms healthy, please keep children at home if they are unwell. We appreciate your cooperation in looking out for the well-being of all our students and staff.

Introducing our Head Students for 2026

The selection process this year was incredibly difficult, as we received a record number of applications from a wide range of talented and passionate students. We want to extend a sincere thank you to everyone who applied; the level of dedication and the vision shown by our student body was truly inspiring.

Our new leaders hold an essential responsibility within our school community. Their roles go beyond the title — they are the primary student voice, ensuring your ideas and concerns are heard. Furthermore, they serve as role models for all, consistently embodying our core school values in everything they do.

Below are some short messages from our Head Students.

Tessa Hayward

Tēnā koutou katoa. Ko Pirongia te maunga, ko Waipa te awa, ko Purekireki te marae, ko Ngāti Maniapoto me Waikato Tainui ngā iwi, ko Ngāti Pou me Ngāti Mahuta te hapū, ko Tessa toku ingoa. Kia ora everyone, my name is Tessa Hayward and I am delighted to say that I am Head Girl of Muritai School for 2026. I applied to be head girl because I love te kura o Muritai and want to help make it even more awesome for the kids who will be here after me. I started at Muritai in 2018 with Mrs Sullivan and have learnt so much from her and all my teachers since. More than just reading, writing, and maths, I've learnt resilience, friendship and teamwork through school sports events, art festivals, kapa haka performance roopū, and NIWA Science Fair (thanks to everyone who helped with my cupcake experiment!) Eastbourne is a great place to grow up. As Head Girl, I'm really looking forward to connecting more with our community, representing Muritai School at events, and working with teachers and students making sure Muritai School is the best it can be. Nō reira, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā tatou katoa.

Fraser Halman

I'm Fraser and I am Muritai School's Head Boy for 2026. I feel incredibly privileged to be Head Boy for Muritai school. This role means leadership and giving full effort, making sure you help others no matter the task. Head Boy means not giving up and being a role model and that's what I will strive to be. Muritai has so many cool opportunities like Kapa haka, band, camps and so much more...that's what I love about Muritai! There are opportunities for everyone. Let's make it a great year Muritai school!!

Mahinarangi Barker

Kia ora I'm Mahina the Deputy Head Girl at Muritai School for 2026. I'm really looking forward to this role and all the opportunities that come with it like speaking at assemblies and getting to know all of the students at our kura. This school has helped me through all the seven and a bit years I've been here. It has taught me so much it has truly earned a special place in my heart. The role of deputy head does mean taking a lot of responsibility along with representing the school and its values which is something I will gladly do. Let's make this an awesome year!

Finn Anderson-Budd

I'm Finn, the Deputy Head Boy at Muritai school. This role means so much to me. I always looked up to the heads and depts because of the respect they gave to everyone and their kindness. I'm going to try to be just as empathetic as them. I feel honoured to be able to represent this school. And I will be the best I can be. I hope to hear ideas from everyone in the Eastbourne community. I'm looking forward to having more student voice at Muritai which has gotten so much better but I feel it could still improve. I want to make sure everyone at Muritai feels included in school decisions. I hope to do a great job and I hope you will support me along the way.



Update from the Board of Trustees

At the first Board meeting of 2026, our Board approved our Attendance Management plan for 2026. This can be viewed on the school website by following this link: [Attendance Management Plan](#)

A reminder, our Board also set dates for two Teacher Only Days this year for our teachers to dedicate towards the new curriculum professional development. These dates are attached to public holidays which may assist with families planning a short trip away. Please save these dates:

Friday 29 May (the following Monday is Kings Birthday)

Friday 23rd October (the following Monday is Labour Day)



Ngā Mihi

Stu Devenport

THE HERO APP

If you booked a time with your teacher - a double thumbs up as it also means you have downloaded our new HERO communication app. This will be the key platform we will be using to communicate with you at home and it is super easy to navigate. It's been wonderful to hear such positive feedback already! If you haven't connected yet, please follow the instructions here. If you do have difficulty, feel free to pop into the school office for assistance.

READY, SET, SIGN IN!

Stay in the loop by following these steps.

- DOWNLOAD THE HERO APP**
Once downloaded, click 'Sign In'
- ADD YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS**
Select 'Next'
- SELECT 'NEW USER'**
Your account will be set up by your school using the email address that you provided when you enrolled your children; use this address to request a password.
- CHECK YOUR EMAIL**
You should receive an email within five minutes.
- SELECT 'SUBMIT'**
Hero will send you an email with a link to follow.
- FOLLOW THE LINK**
This will take you to a secure page to enter your chosen password.

If you encounter problems logging in, please check with your school to make sure they have the correct details for you.

Hero



Garden News:

Apologies Muritai Whanau Māra Muritai Working Bee is postponed from Saturday 14 March to Saturday 21st March, 9-12.

See you then!

We are also on the look out for the following donations for our garden...

- Logs for seating in the garden
- Seedlings
- Garden tools

ALSO...If you have any excess produce you can bring them to the Mara Muritai stand in the foyer to share with the community



Year 7 Boostrix Immunisations

Our immunisation team is coming to your school the week starting **23 March 2026**.

We will vaccinate the Year 7 students who have returned their form giving consent to receive these national schedule vaccinations.

Important Dates	
Date	Event
16 Mar	Pizza Monday
16-19 Mar	School Photos
20 Mar	Assembly whole school
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 April	First Day of Term 2

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

EASTBOURNE RUGBY

OPEN DAY

Fun for the Whole Family!


Relays ● Lollie Scramble ● Scavenger Hunt





- **Sunday 15th March**
- **2:00pm**
- **HWS shortt Park**

we include these digitally for you to peruse.




HUTT UNITED
Hockey Club Juniors!

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.

See you on the turf!

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
- Book online at 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

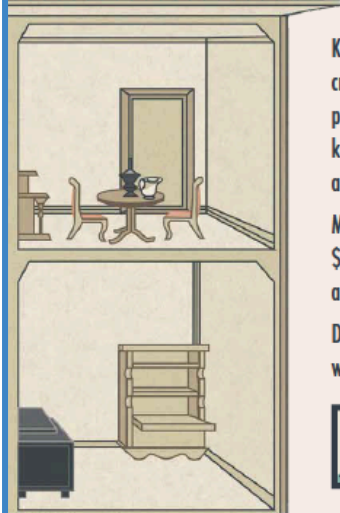
Looking for fun, hands-on workshops to keep your kids inspired over the Easter break?

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 or book online 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

