



Muritai Beacon

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

Rāhina 16 o Whiringa-ā-nuku,

Kia ora Muritai whānau and welcome to Term 4,

I hope you all had a restful break from the normal school routines over the holiday period. It was pleasing to see the sun come to the party on some of the days and see people make the most of our beautiful Eastbourne environment.

Many thanks to the parents and whānau who attended our Learning Support Information hui yesterday. We hope the opportunity was useful to learn more about the many roles within this space and the mechanisms we put in place to support students across the school. As a school, I am incredibly proud of what we offer, often with limited resources and funding. There is always room to grow and the feedback we received will be very useful to synthesize and feed into our strategic plan for the next 3 years.

If you are an experienced member of our Muritai whānau you'll know how busy this term will be, with many exciting events already loaded in the school calendar. It is so important to keep on top of what is coming up by following our calendar on the app and on our website. Speaking of events, we are really looking forward to our Year 3-8 Athletics Day which is scheduled for Monday 19 October. We welcome and encourage parents to come along to support the students for this exciting day, which concludes with our annual House and Class Relays. We hope the weather will be kind to us to help make the day a real success.

A reminder that school will be **closed for instruction next Friday 23rd October**. Our teaching staff and teacher aides will be continuing their professional development journey on **Universal Design for Learning (UDL)** alongside our Resource Teacher: Learning and Behaviour (RTLb) team. Thank you for your support as our educators invest in enhancing classroom learning strategies for all students. We are tagging the day to a long weekend so whānau might take the opportunity for an extended break.



Term 4 holds a special significance as it marks the final term at Muritai for our **Year 8 students**. This is an important milestone in their educational journey, and our Kāhu team teachers and staff will be making the most of the coming weeks to ensure our leavers are sent off in true Muritai style! From special traditions and leadership opportunities to end-of-year celebrations, we look forward to making this final term memorable, meaningful, and rewarding for our Year 8s as they prepare for the transition to high school.

Important reminders about life at school

At the start of every term we like to gather the school together to share some reminders about some of our expectations when your children are at school. Below are the reminders. It would be great if you can support us with reinforcing these expectations at home too:

- **Sunsmart in Term 4:** In Term 4 we ask that students wear a sunsmart hat when they are learning and playing outside. The best approach is each child has a named sunhat that stays at school for the duration of the term. We also reminded students of being sunsmart by applying sunscreen at the beginning of the day before they come to school and also wearing appropriate sunsmart clothing. We have specifically asked that shoulders be covered to be sunsmart.
- **Appropriate footwear:** For safety reasons, we ask that students wear shoes while outside. They also need to be wearing appropriate footwear for physical activity. Sneakers or trainers are best.
- **Smartwatches and Cellphones:** We encourage students to keep these devices at home but understand some whānau rely on utilising these devices to communicate with children at the end of the school day. If your child does bring these devices to school, these need to be handed in to the classroom teacher at the beginning of the school day and can be collected at the end of the day.
- **No chewing gum:** Students should not be chewing gum at school or when they are attending a school event outside school (eg EOTC, sports trip etc)

Thanks very much for your support on these matters - it means a lot in ensuring we have a smooth and successful term ahead!

Class Placements and Intentions for 2027

Although we are still in October, the Senior Leadership Team has already commenced their planning for 2027. One of the key planning components is looking at our student numbers, so we have a good understanding of how many children we will have in each learning team. Thank you to the whānau who have communicated with us already about this. If your circumstances are changing and you know your child/ren will not be returning to Muritai School in 2027 can you please contact Jo Bentley in the school office at bentley@muritai.school.nz

Later in the term, the teaching teams will commence the process of forming classes for 2027. This is often an intricate process where a lot of factors are taken into consideration. We are very fortunate at Muritai to have highly experienced teachers who know their students well. They are able to make informed decisions on classroom placements for their learners, taking into consideration each child's learning, social, behaviour and emotional needs. These are all put into the mix to ensure we make the right decisions for each child. We also ensure we capture ākonga | student voice in the process.

Although at Muritai School we do not take parent requests for teachers, if you have some information you think we would find useful about your child, you are welcome to provide us with this. If you wish to do this, please let me know directly by **Monday, 2nd November**. You can email your thoughts to principal@muritai.school.nz

Wearable Arts Showcase

At the end of last term, our students blew us away with their creativity, innovation, and artistic flair during our **Wearable Arts Showcase**. It was fantastic to see the incredible designs brought to life using repurposed materials, vibrant colours, and endless imagination. Thank you to all the staff,

parents, and whānau who supported our young designers in making the event such a resounding success!

Congratulations to the Muritai Maulers!

A huge congratulations to our brand new waterpolo team, the **Muritai Maulers**, who finished as **runners-up** in their league! This is an extraordinary achievement given that every single team member was a first-time player this season. A special thank you goes to **Bret Burrows** for dedicating his time, expertise, and enthusiasm to training and coaching the team this year. Outstanding work, Maulers!

Focus for the Term: 'Kindness'

Our school value focus for Term 4 is **Kindness**. As we move into a busy time of year, we will be encouraging all students to demonstrate kindness in their everyday actions—whether through inclusive play on the playground, supporting classmates during activities, or showing empathy across our school community. We invite whānau to reinforce this message at home as we strive to foster a warm, supportive environment for everyone.

The Home & School Committee still needs new members for 2027!

Our Home and School team are still on the look out for new members to join the team and fill some key roles from the start of 2027. This parent led team plays a critical role in our school, not only as a key fundraising stream but also in providing additional opportunities like pizza lunches and our popular school disco. For more information please read the Hero post sent out on 15 October or contact the Home and School team at muritaihomeandschool@gmail.com for more information.

Ngā mihi nui,
Stu Devenport

TEACHER ONLY DAY

We have a Teacher Only Day on Friday 23 October. Please put it in your diaries now. Thank you

2027 Dates:

Term 1 Tuesday 2 February to Friday 9 April
Term 2 Tuesday 27 April to Friday 2 July
Term 3 Monday 19 July to Friday 24 September
Term 4 Monday 10 October to Thursday 16 December



Important Dates	
Date	Event
19 Oct	Year 3-8 Athletics
22 Oct	Postponement day Year 3-8 Athletics
23 Oct	Teacher Only Day
26 Oct	Labour Day Holiday
27-29 Oct	Year 7/8 Careers Parents morning
30 Oct	Whole school assembly led by Kererū
3 Nov	Wairua Zone Athletics
5 Nov	Wairua Zone Athletics PP day
17 Nov	InterZone Athletics
19 Nov	Interzone Athletics pp day
20 Nov	Whole school assembly led by Tūi
24-27 Nov	Oxted H&S Sale in STEAM Room
27 Nov	Kororā Fun Swim day
1 Dec	Regional Athletics
1 Dec	Road Patrol Pool party
3 Dec	Regional Athletics PP day
4 Dec	Kapa Haka sharing to Whānau 9.30 am
4 Dec	Whole school assembly led by Kororā
7-11 Dec	Y8 Abel Tasman Week
14 Dec	Y8 Formal
16 Dec 11am - 1pm	Y8 Leaver Assembly
16 Dec	Last day of the year - finishing at 1pm

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.

Learn to Sail 2026/27 – Muritai Yacht Club
myc.org.nz

Spring course begins 12 October | Summer course begins 1 February
Mondays 4:30 – 7:00 | 10 weeks | ages 9-15 | \$350

Learn the lifelong skill of sailing!
Course fee includes:

- ✓ Yachting NZ qualified coaches
- ✓ Weekly session of fun on the water
- ✓ Use of club boats
- ✓ Club T-shirt!

<https://tinyurl.com/fpnyuhku>

Or contact Dean Riley
at: juniors.myc@gmail.com for more information.

 Register here

My

The Addams Family
young@part

Only \$10pp

6-10 October 2026
Wainuiomata High School Auditorium

Attend opening night - 6 October - in costume, to be in with a chance to win some cool spot prizes!

<https://www.trybooking.com/nz/BEXZ>



