



Rāmere te tuarua tekau ma whetū o Whiringa-ā-nuku,

Kia ora koutou Muritai whānau,

The last two weeks have flown by with loads of exciting experiences happening across the school. I hope you all enjoyed the long weekend just been - how good was Monday's sunshine!

I'm writing this newsletter today from Wainuiomata Intermediate as I've joined the Kāhu kids for Technology. It is great to see the great opportunities our senior students get each week. From cooking, hard materials technology and specialised art classes in Wainuiomata to robotics, dance and Spanish back at school - Wednesdays are always an exciting time in Kāhu.

The weather managed to play ball for us in Week 2 so our Year 3-8 students could compete in our annual Athletics Day. It was great to see everyone give it their all with the events and a special congratulations to our top athletes from Years 4-8:

Y3 boy Ted Fahey

Y3 girl Georgie Davis

Y4 boy Harri Hayes

Y4 girl Cashel Cross

Y5 boy Keegan Field

Y5 girls Eve Wyatt, Eleanor Wilkie

Y6 boy Hugo Thompson

Y6 girl Georgia Gellatly

Y7 boys Toitu Singh, Noah Delaney

Y7 girl Sofia McDonald

Y8 boys Gil Hoskin, Alfie Clench, Harper Calder

Y8 girl Sienna Chapman

These students have been selected to represent Muritai at the upcoming Zone event in Lower Hutt.



A big thank you to the Kererū teachers for organising an action-packed day for us. Thanks also to our parents and teachers who represented the adults in the final relay event of the day... congratulations to the speedy Cook relay team who convincingly smashed us with their final run! Watch out next year!

A reminder that on **Monday 13th November school is closed for instruction as it is a Teacher Only Day** for report writing. Kelly Club may be offering alternative care options for this day so reach out to them if you require supervision for your child/ren on this day. Thanks for your support on this matter.

As many of you know, Term 4 is jam packed with events. Please keep up to date with what is happening across the school, using the school calendar on the website and school app. Our weekly heads up gives you a brief breakdown of what is happening each week in every syndicate.

### **STAFFING UPDATE**

Over the last month the Senior Leadership Team has been busy recruiting some awesome teachers and leaders to join our kura in 2024. I am pleased to announce the additions and changes to our teaching syndicates for next year.

- **Deputy Principal+SENCO: Ginny Treadwell**. Ginny has previously worked at Muritai. She led the Year 3 and 4 team and the Junior team in 2007-10. She moved to Palmerston North taking on an Assistant Principal role at Russell Street School before starting a family. She later returned to the Wellington region, teaching in Tawhai School. Over the last 3 years she has been a Learning Support Coordinator for the Upper Hutt Cluster (a very high functioning cluster of schools). She is super excited to be returning to Muritai!
- **Korora Team Leaders: Felicity Lovell and Nadia Henderson** will be jointly leading the Junior syndicate in 2024. Both of these teachers have had recent experience in leadership so it will be great to have this continuity in this space.
- **Teachers:** We had a couple of vacancies to fill and the successful applicants are already familiar faces in our kura. **Sally Ingram** will join the Junior School again in Term 2 of 2024 to start the roll growth class. Sally has done an excellent job taking on Room 3 half way through this year and is an experienced junior school teacher. **Kristi Field** will be joining the Kererū team. Kristi already works 1 day a week here in the junior school school + a part time position at Wellesley. She has a strong background in structured literacy. **Sarah Bleier** has also done a stellar job of taking over Room 10 half way through this year and next year will move to Kāhu. Sarah is an experienced teacher of year 5-8 students, working recently at Chilton St James and Wellesley.

At this stage the only other internal changes are **Amy Cardno** is moving from Year 7 and 8 to Year 2. **Gabrielle Heath** is moving out of full time classroom teacher to release/part time teacher of Kororā.

Below is a outline of the 4 teaching syndicates:

## Kororā



**Team Leaders:** Felicity Lovell & Nadia Henderson

**New Entrants / Year 1:** Nicolette Fisher, Felicity Lovell, Sally Ingram (starting Term 2)

**Year 2:** Nadia Henderson, Sheldon Wilson, Amy Cardno

**Release Teacher:** Gabrielle Heath

## Tūī



**Team Leader:** Jamie Power

**Year 3 & 4 Composite:**

Elena Forlong, Jamie Power, Kate McLean, Carly Stanford

**Release Teacher:** Jess Davidson

## Kererū



**Team Leader:** Lisa Allen

**Year 5 & 6 Composite :**

Carmen MacDonald, Phil Rodley, Kristi Field, Lisa Allen

**Release Teacher:** Hilary Bevin

## Kāhu



**Team Leader:** Jon Mackie

**Year 7 & 8 Composite:**

Kea Maritz, Jon Mackie, Sarah Bleier

**Release Teacher:** Eve Owen

### YEAR 6 TRANSITION TO KāHU

This week our Year 6 students planning to move to Kāhu in 2024 had their first official visit to 'the Senior Side'. The purpose of the visit is to become more familiar with the new environment before the new year begins. Mr Mackie shared some information on how the Kāhu syndicate operates and the additional opportunities on offer. They then had the opportunity to explore some of the technology options that operate on a Wednesday. We hope to offer more opportunities to visit later in the term!



### SHAKEOUT & HIKOI

Last week we joined the rest of the country in the nationwide SHAKEOUT! This is always a timely opportunity to familiarise ourselves with our procedures in the event of an earthquake. As we are so close to the coastline we always follow the earthquake drill with a hikoi to our designated evacuation point on McKenzie Road. Well done to all our ākonga and kaimahi for successfully evacuating briskly in just over 10 minutes... pretty impressive for close to 450 people!

### BUSY BEES!

In conjunction with Bee Aware month, Room 1, 7 and 16 have taken part in a competition to paint a beehive box. Last week the classes had a visit from Belmont apiarist Alan Kilmister to teach the ākonga more about bees and to help them with their boxes.

### WIGGY WEDNESDAY

It was great to see everyone get involved in this fun day last week - Thank you to our Charity Ambassadors for organising this in collaboration with Professionals Real Estate. A total of --- was raised for the Child Cancer Foundation - Ka pai!





## METELLI'NAH!

We are all learners at Muritai!! This term we are a keen bunch of kaiako learning to play the guitar at lunchtime. We have a great time on Fridays laughing and learning with Charles! Look out for a potential performance in the future....

## CLASS PLACEMENTS FOR 2024

As mentioned in the last newsletter the teaching teams have now commenced the process of forming classes for 2024. This is often an intricate process where a lot of factors are taken into consideration. Learning, social, behaviour and emotional needs, are all put into the mix to ensure we make the right decisions for each child. We also ensure we capture ākongā 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 **Friday, 3 November**. You can email your thoughts to [principal@muritai.school.nz](mailto:principal@muritai.school.nz)

Kia pai tō rā whakatā,

Stu Devenport

## 2024 Term Dates

**Term 1** Thursday 1 February – Friday 12 April (96 half days) - 11 week term

**Term 2** Monday 29 April – Friday 5 July (96 half days) - 10 week term

**Term 3** Monday 22 July – Friday 27 September (100 half days) - 10 week term

**Term 4** Monday 14 October – Tuesday 17 December (92 half days) - 10 week term

## Congratulations to Timothy Prebble

Timothy Prebble from Room 21 (Year 7) is a published author! His piece has been published in the Toitōi magazine - a journal for young writers and artists. Well done Timothy.

## Te Rū

I fly through the forest. Great tōtara seem to hold the sky up, with ribbons of mist weaving through their strong branches. The birds sing relentlessly, sending their chorus into the chilly morning air. Below, roots spread like a tangled spider's web and mushrooms – bright-white and elegant – have burst overnight through the leaf-strewn ground.

In the distance, there is a faint rumbling. It grows louder and louder. Suddenly, the ground starts to shake violently. There are squawks of fright and warning as spiders, ants and other bugs scuttle into their hiding places. A nīkau cracks, then falls. Splinters fly into the air as more trees crash to the ground. Just as suddenly, the ground stops shaking. A faint rumble persists.

There is an explosion as a massive wave smashes onto the beach. A wall of water breaks through the trees on the front line. The wave rolls over and over itself destroying everything in its path. When the water finally drains, all that is left is wet, soggy carnage. Slowly, birds return to the remaining trees.

A strong wind now whips my feathers. I look down to the fractured ground and see an upturned pūriri, its roots swaying uncertainly in the air. Small juicy grubs writhe in between the cracks. I swoop and have my fill for breakfast.

Weak sun casts light over the forest floor where the trees have been ripped out. The exposed underground stirs with life, ready to renew the destroyed forest.



## Dancer!

Betty McDonald is dancing with the RNZB in Hansel and Gretel at the St James Theatre in Wellington. Betty is one of the child extra 'birds' and will be dancing this weekend on 27th and 28th of October. She has been studying ballet since she was 3 years of age at Mary Rodgers Dance Academy in Lower

Hutt. Well done Betty - we hope you have a great time at St James at the weekend

Important Dates	
Date	Event
30 Oct	Year 5 Road Patrol training
31 Oct	SE Athletics
1 Nov	BOT Meeting at 6.30pm
8 Nov	Starting School @ 5 meeting
13 Nov	Teacher Only Day
21 Nov	Inter Zone Athletics
23 Nov	Inter Zone Athletics postponement day
29 Nov	BOT meeting at 6.30pm
4 to 8 Dec	Abel Tasman camp for year 8's
5 Dec	Inter Zone Athletics
6 Dec	Road Patrol Pool Party
7 Dec	Inter Zone Athletics postponement day
8 Dec	Kereru syndicate - Youthtown
12 Dec	Regional Athletics
12 Dec	Kereru Fun Swim afternoon
13 Dec	Year 8 formal
14 Dec	Regional Athletics PP day
15 Dec	Year 8 Assembly at 11am
15 Dec	Last day of the year - finishes 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.**

#### SCOUTS QUIZ NIGHT

Come along to a fun and entertaining quiz night on Saturday 4 November at the Hutt Valley Irish Society to help raise funds for the 2nd Lower Hutt Scout Group to attend the Scouts Jamboree.

There will be prizes, food, drink, and the evening will be hosted by a musical comedy duo!

If you would like to attend, please book here <https://forms.gle/Q1G4kzuaXF7HTkaN9>.

We are also looking for local businesses to sponsor prizes for raffles - if you know of anyone interested, please contact [jaynesletterbox@gmail.com](mailto:jaynesletterbox@gmail.com).

Thank you for supporting your local scouting community!

**After school Jewellery workshops**

**FOR KIDS**

- ✓ Afternoon tea provided
- ✓ Wax sculpting
- ✓ Wire & bead work
- ✓ Metal work & finishing
- ✓ Treasures to take home
- ✓ Creative and fun!

November 4 week workshops open  
 Tuesdays years 5/6 3.30 - 5pm  
 Wednesdays years 7/8 3.30 - 5pm  
 410 Muritai Rd, Eastbourne

**REGISTER YOUR TAMARIKI NOW**  
**RACHEL@RACHELSTICHBURY.COM**  
**0275664856**